



Dame Stella Rimington DCB nee Whitehouse 1935-

Director General of MI5, Writer

Stella was born in south London but when her father worked in Ilkeston, she attended Nottingham Girls' High School. She studied English at Edinburgh university and then archive administration at Liverpool university.

She started her working life as an archivist in Worcester. With her husband John whom she met in Nottingham, she worked at the High Commission in India where she obtained security clearance and worked in MI5 office for 2 years. On her return to England she worked in all 3 branches of the security services and she became the **first** woman Director General of M15 from 1992 – 1996.

She retired from that post in 1996 and in 2001 published her autobiography 'Open Secret'. She followed that in 2004 with a novel 'At Risk' featuring 34-year-old Liz Carlyle, an MI5 intelligence officer who receives information that a terrorist threat is imminent. Liz must not only deal with the impending crisis, but she must put up with the patronising sexist attitude from her MI6 partner. She has followed this with several other novels some again featuring Liz Carlisle.