

DAME STELLA RIMINGTON DCB MA

Former Director General of the British Security Service MI5

Dame Stella speaks about her life and career as Former Director General of MI5 and as an international thriller writer. Her clients include major national and international companies, business professionals, the public and private sectors, trades associations and schools. Her straightforward approach and friendly, candid manner are combined with an informed view and intelligent judgement. Happy to take questions, she prefers to speak “in person” but may accept virtual bookings.

Dame Stella is known to billions worldwide as the role model for “M” played by Dame Judi Dench in the *James Bond 007* films. Is it true that Dame Stella’s personal style influenced the wardrobe choices for “M”?

A best-selling thriller writer, Dame Stella has written her autobiography and twelve spy thrillers. She chaired the Judging Panel for the Booker Prize for Fiction in 2012.

Born in 1935, Stella Rimington was educated at Nottingham High School for Girls and Edinburgh University. She gained a Postgraduate Diploma in the Study of Records and the Administration of Archives at Liverpool University, and then worked in the Worcester County Record Office and the India Office Library, London. In 1965, she accompanied her husband on a posting to the British High Commission in New Delhi, where she worked part-time for the Security Service, which had an office there. Returning to the UK in 1969, she joined the Service full-time and worked in all the main fields of the Service's responsibilities - counter-subversion, counter-espionage and counter-terrorism. She was the only person to become *Director of all three branches*. Appointed Director General of MI5 in 1992, Stella Rimington was the first woman to take the post and the first Director General to be publicly named in the Government’s new spirit of open-ness. She retired in April 1996.

Made a Dame Commander of the Bath in the 1996 New Year Honours List, Dame Stella has Honorary Degrees from Universities including Nottingham, Warwick, Lucy Cavendish Cambridge and Exeter. Edinburgh University elected her as their “Alumna of the Year 1994”.

Formerly a Non-Executive Director of Marks & Spencer Plc, BG Group Plc, and an Associate Director of CPS, she was Chairman of the Institute of Cancer Research, Trustee of the Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Trust, and Honorary Air Commodore of 7006 (VR) Intelligence Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force and a Trustee of the RAF Museum. A Governor of Town Close House Preparatory School in Norwich, she has two daughters and five grandchildren.

Books by Dame Stella Rimington:

Open Secret – her autobiography was published in 2001.

Ten best-selling thrillers featuring MI5’s Liz Carlyle: *At Risk, Secret Asset, Illegal Action, Dead Line, Present Danger, Rip Tide, The Geneva Trap, Close Call, Breaking Cover, and The Moscow Sleepers* (2018: paperback 2019).

The Devil’s Bargain, her first thriller novel featuring CIA agent Manon Tyler, was published in March 2022. The second book, *The Hidden Hand*, was published in January 2025.

Clients say this about Dame Stella as a speaker:

“From our initial conversation with Diana Boulter, we knew we were in capable and safe hands. She was engaged, engaging, always responsive, really understood what we wanted to achieve from our guest speaker, and suggested that Dame Stella would be absolutely right for our audience. She was! “Inspiring”, “inspirational” and “fabulous” are some of the ways Dame Stella has been described by those that heard her speak at our event. We would wholeheartedly recommend DBA Speakers, and Dame Stella.” **Dentons UKIME, London**

“Open. Honest. Candid. Stellar”. **Global software security company – name and address supplied**

“Dame Stella was superb. We had an incredible event with global interest which attracted a capacity audience. Brilliant!”
Bank of America Merrill Lynch

“Dame Stella was great. We loved her. Our guests loved her. Her talk was really interesting and engaging.” **Rothsay, London**

"Dame Stella was superb. Delegates said she was excellent. An absolute pleasure to have her at our event."

PMK BNC for Microsoft

"It was a pleasure to meet and hear Dame Stella and we have received so many plaudits regarding her. We are now all wondering what on Earth to do next year to follow our success this year! I will be in touch and it's great to have a 'spy pen' again!"

Chairman, Shropshire Federation of Women's Institutes

"Dame Stella is exceptionally polished, very professional and inspiring. Her insight and knowledge are outstanding. We could have listened to her all day. Many thanks to Diana Boulter for arranging for Dame Stella to be our guest speaker. First rate."

International Bank, London

"We couldn't have asked for a better speaker and human being. For someone who has seen and experienced so much, Dame Stella was so approachable and friendly – refreshing traits in such a top-rate speaker."

Jack Hayes, Celebrity Manager, Champions UK

"Dame Stella was a real professional, easy to work with and she followed the brief perfectly. Our client is delighted."

Room 54 Ltd, London

"What a privilege to have heard Dame Stella speak. It was so clear how engaged everyone was in the room by the most fascinating and inspiring talk. I could have listened for another hour on the edge of my seat! Our members left on a high and there was a real buzz around the club about Dame Stella. Our most heartfelt and renewed thanks".

The Arts Club, London

"Dame Stella's message was inspiration as well as being amusing. So many members commented on how much they enjoyed it"

Wiltshire County Federation of WIs

"Inspiring and brilliant. Really inspiring! Great suggestion from Diana at DBA Speakers to invite Dame Stella as our guest speaker."

Bedfordshire County Federation of WIs

"Dame Stella was a true professional. It was a delight to welcome her as our Centenary Celebration speaker. The hall was full to capacity!"

Oxfordshire County Federation of WIs

"How to describe Dame Stella as a speaker? **Stellar.**" **Culture Liverpool Festival, June 2019**

"Dame Stella spoke at the end of our annual conference to an international audience of 600. Her speech about her life and career within MI5 was compelling and truly fascinating. The audience were completely engaged for the whole 45 minutes and gave her the biggest applause of the plenary. We were delighted – *she was excellent!*"

Juniper Networks

"Seriously informative in an amusing way. She was approachable, friendly and put everyone at their ease. Thanks, Diana!"

Hastings & Rother U3A

"A thought-provoking presentation for our Risk Division Leadership Meeting. All our attendees thoroughly enjoyed Dame Stella's insight. The challenges she faced remain relevant today. An excellent session and we have received really positive feedback: Dame Stella was the highlight of the day". **Leading global and UK bank – name and address supplied.**

"Dame Stella was exceptional and Diana made sure the event ran seamlessly. The school was just buzzing the next day. Thank you for making our Birthday Lecture a tremendous success, very special and so inspiring."

Kent College Pembury

"I want to reiterate our comments on how much we enjoyed hearing and meeting Dame Stella. She has provoked such a positive response. We weren't sure that our most recent speaker would be surpassed, in terms of engagement. Well, I've been proved wrong! Her message and observations have resonated very clearly with our colleagues at the firm – she offered a perfect fit of outlook and perspective. Thank you to DBA for making it such a success".

International financial company – name and address supplied

"On behalf of White & Case, I would like to thank you so much for a wonderfully entertaining evening. You covered so much - not just your own fascinating career, but also 50 years of political and social history in the UK. The changing role of well-educated women in that period is something we don't appreciate until we hear someone with your perspective. I was very sad not to have my 16-year-old daughter in the room to hear from you, first-hand. There were a mix of senior lawyers and senior clients (from banks and corporates) in the room and we have received fantastic feedback"

Partner, White & Case LLP, London

"Thank you so much for speaking at the Norwood Property Lunch. Your insights into the essential role you played at MI5, with the current terrorism discourse, were truly fascinating. A real highlight which helped us to raise *over £600,000*. We know that you are invited to speak at very many events. We are proud that you chose to speak at our event, and exceptionally grateful." **Norwood**

"Well done to Hamlins for inviting Dame Stella – she was a superb guest speaker. Thought-provoking and hugely entertaining. The sell-out capacity turnout showed the interest in her."

Hamlins LLP Property Breakfast, London (comment from a guest who attended the Business Breakfast)

"Dame Stella was really inspiring : listening to what she accomplished was great" **ImagoTechMedia**

"Dame Stella was delightful and the stories of her working life were fascinating, much enjoyed by everyone, including HRH Princess Anne. Delighted to have such an inspiring lady with us."
SIGBI, Soroptimists of Great Britain and Ireland

"Dame Stella's talk was fascinating and hugely entertaining. Could have listened to her for hours. The most interesting talk I have been to for ages. Thanks for inviting me." **Guest at SIGBI Conference 2015**

"Always inspiring to feel the energy of people who try to change things in the world for better!" **Guest at SIGBI Conference 2015**

"Dame Stella was absolutely excellent – our audience were spellbound. She was an excellent choice and we would highly recommend her. Excellent support from DBA Speakers, going the extra mile"
Optimum Events for iTelligence Business Solutions, June 2015

"We always ask delegates to complete a feedback sheet. Dame Stella was rated as *Excellent* by 97% of the delegates. **This is the highest-ever rating for a speaker, not just in the UK, but all over the world**, which is amazing. My biggest problem now is whom to invite next year!?"
Julie Morrish, Marketing Manager, Telelogic

"She sparked interesting questions and was as relevant today as when she left MI5. Dame Stella commands respect and it was clear that our guests enjoyed listening to someone who "been there, seen it, and got the proverbial T-shirt."
Director of Communications, Coventry Building Society

"We wanted to thank you for your invaluable contribution to the success of Security World. The reaction to your speech was universally positive, as was the response from all our luncheon guests. The fact that we received feedback from almost 100% of the delegates speaks for itself and demonstrates the interest you generated. This is an annual event. Our marketing team anticipate that it will be a struggle to find a speaker next year whose content and delivery will be as well received."
Managing Director, Integralis UK

"This year's Conference was attended by 900 professionals over three days and your contribution was a significant factor in the very positive feedback we have received. Your talk on the events which happened during your career in MI5 and thoughts on the current geopolitical situation provided a fascinating end to the event."
Chief Executive, National Association of Pension Funds

"Feedback from delegates tells us that the theme, content and delivery of your speech will support them in the challenges they face, and that the power of strong and purposeful leadership will continue to be a focus for us. They were riveted by your reflections, recounted with humour and wisdom, and the common sense of a woman who ensured that the "other ranks" were not beyond her reach, paving the way for others to seek and relish their own opportunities. We are very grateful for the way in which you embraced our Conference theme and you contributed magnificently to the gaiety of nations!"
Director of Headteachers Conference

"I was very impressed with Dame Stella's speech – well-delivered, well-argued and stimulating. Dame Stella answered questions unexpectedly openly and straightforwardly, given a career in an institution which reminds each employee not to assume things are ever as they might appear to be".
Ernst & Young (comments from principal client of E&Y, who attended the E&Y Business Dinner)

"We were absolutely delighted with Dame Stella's talk. It was delivered with great humour and style and we have had excellent feedback from those present. Last night was - in every respect – the best fundraising event we have had so far."
Downham Market Lecture Society

"I write to express my thanks and gratitude for delivering an excellent inspirational speech at our Conference last week. Feedback from the delegates shows that it was one of the highlights of the 2-day conference with comments such as "entertaining", "fascinating", "extremely enjoyable" and "highlight of the conference for me". Please accept our thanks for your contribution to a very successful Staff Conference".
Head of Financial Services, The Rent Service

www.stellarimington.uk

**Dame Stella is exclusively available through DBA Speakers.
To check her availability please call Diana Boulter at DBA Speakers on 07554
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