

AIVD

Per undas adversas



One of the best
secret services
in Europe?

Hidden away in the city of Zoetermeer is the office of the Algemene Inlichtingen en Veiligheidsdienst, or AIVD for those who haven't quite mastered the super long words of the Dutch language. AIVD, which was previously known as the BVD (Binnenlandse Veiligheidsdienst), is the Netherlands' general intelligence and security service.

Whilst the Military Intelligence and Security Service (MIVD) focuses on dealing with espionage and international threats, AIVD concentrates on domestic, non-military threats to Dutch national security.

AIVD is kept busy, monitoring specific groups, investigating bombings when necessary and liaising with foreign and domestic intelligence services. They are supported by an impressive set of tools, having at their disposal access to telephone and internet taps, police intelligence and the use of informants.

AIVD has been the subject of some criticism in the past, having lost a laptop and disk that contained confidential information. However, overall they are seen in quite a positive light.

Anyone is allowed to make an appointment to see whether they have a record with the AIVD. However do ensure you actually make the appointment if you wish to try this out as AIVD don't take lightly to surprise visits. Visits to the AIVD are strictly by appointment; the offices are a 'verboden plaats' and being there without permission is illegal...you have been warned! ■

