



TUESDAY
5th August 2003
Text only



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BBC Press Rele.

09.07.03

BBC NEWS

Letter from Gavyn Davies, Chairman of the BBC Board of Govenors to Geoff Hoon, Secretary of Defence

Dear Geoff

Thank you for today's letter, which I believe you have now released to the press.

I have to say that the offer in your letter seems to be an attempt to force the BBC News Division to reveal the name or names of the source(s) used by Andrew Gilligan on Today and Susan Watts on Newsnight. You will recognise that it is a cardinal principle of good journalism that sources should never be revealed, no matter how intense the pressure may be. As Chairman of the BBC, I support this principle.

In line with this principle, I do not myself know the identity of the source(s) mentioned above, so I am unable to accept your offer of confirming whether their name(s) match the person who has come forward at the Ministry of Defence.

I will be releasing this letter to the press.

Yours sincerely

Gavyn Davies

Chairman of the BBC Board of Governors

Notes to Editors

[Latest BBC statement regarding the source of the Today programme report on the Iraq dossier \(09.07.03\)](#)

[BBC response to MoD statement \(09.07.03\)](#)

[BBC says FAC report justifies BBC journalism \(07 07 03\)](#)

[Statement from Gavyn Davies, Chairman of the BBC \(06 07 03\)](#)

[Letter from Stephen Whittle, Controller, Editorial Policy, BBC to Ben Bradshaw MP \(03.07.03\)](#)

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Letter from Richard Sambrook, Director BBC News, to Ben Bradshaw MP (29.06 03)

Letter from Andrew Gilligan, Today programme Defence and Diplomatic Correspondent, to Phil Woolas, Deputy Leader of the House of Commons (28.06 03)

Letter from Richard Sambrook, Director, BBC News to Alastair Campbell (27 06 03)

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