

Alison Blackshaw

From: Peter Ricketts [redacted]
Sent: 09 July 2003 18:11
To: john.williams2 [redacted]; Ed.Owen [redacted]; William.Ehrman [redacted];
Tim.Dowse [redacted]; Ian.Gleeson [redacted]; Andrew.Patrick [redacted];
acampbell [redacted]; dpruce [redacted]; dnews [redacted];
Michael.Williams [redacted]; Kara.Owen [redacted]; Geoffrey.D.Adams [redacted]
Cc: Linda.Jackson [redacted]; Neil.Kernohan [redacted]; Linda.Jackson [redacted];
Neil.Kernohan [redacted]
Subject: RE: mole

I don't think there's a problem for us if the press name him. No need for us to be defensive; so I agree with John that if the name is presented to us, we should confirm. But lets do it in an organised way I suggest we leave it to John W and deflect attempts to get half a dozen of us to say different things!

Peter R

> -----Original Message-----

> From: John Williams (London)

> Sent: 09 July 2003 18:00

> To: Ed Owen; William Ehrman; Peter Ricketts; Tim Dowse; Ian Gleeson;
> Andrew Patrick; Alastair Campbell; Danny Pruce; 'dnews' [redacted];
> Michael Williams; Kara Owen; Geoffrey Adams
> Subject: RE: mole

> I think James Blitz is going to name him. I didn't confirm, but James
> knows I steer him off bum stories. I'm very happy for him to be named
> Nothing personal, but James is absolutely right that the BBC is behaving
> outrageously in defence of a story built on duff information. We'd all
> look tidier if we just confirmed.

> JW

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Ed Owen

> Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2003 5.46 PM

> To: John Williams (London); William Ehrman; Peter Ricketts; Tim
> Dowse; Ian Gleeson; Andrew Patrick; Alastair Campbell; Danny Pruce;
> 'dnews' [redacted]; Michael Williams; Kara Owen; Geoffrey Adams
> Subject: RE: mole

> I had a desperate Patrick Wintour on to me. He knows that the guy
> is paid for by the FCO and that he advised UNMOVIC. But he doesn't have a
> name, although he has been told that if he gets it it will be confirmed.
> He offered to read out the telephone directory until he got to it but I
> politely declined!

> Ed

> -----Original Message-----

> From: John Williams (London)

> Sent: 09 July 2003 17:43

> To: William Ehrman, Peter Ricketts; Tim Dowse; Ian
> Gleeson; Andrew Patrick; Alastair Campbell; Danny Pruce;
> 'dnews' [redacted]; Ed Owen, Michael Williams; Kara Owen; Geoffrey
> Adams
> Subject: mole

> I'm getting a lot of calls from mole hunters. Some are
> pretty close Chris Adams has just rung Tim Dowse to try out the right
> name (and was told to ring the press office) The Independent and Guardian
> think it's an FCO official seconded to the MoD. I've told them it's not an
> FCO official. James Blitz said he knows it's a consultant in WMD paid for
> by the FCO. James is pretty sure this person is the Gilligan/Watts source

CAB/11/0138

> and it's outrageous that the BBC should be defending a story from someone
> so far out of the loop. Heads should roll.
> jw