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Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

London SW1A 2AH

Sir Michael Jay KCMG

*The Permanent Under Secretary of State*

Telephone: 020-7008 2150

Facsimile: 020-7008 3776

E-mail: michael.jay@fco.gov.uk

www.fco.gov.uk

RESTRICTED  
STAFF

*Copies to Jonathan B  
Alan  
Sally  
Matthew*

Sir David Omand KCB  
Permanent Secretary  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AS

*File*

8 July 2003

*Dear David*

I thought that I should clarify one point in Kevin Tebbit's letter to you of 4 July (since elaborated by his further letter of 5 July).

Kevin refers to Andrew Gilligan's suspected source as being "an FCO official seconded to the MOD's Proliferation and Arms Control Secretariat". In fact the individual in question is not and never has been an FCO official. He is an employee of DSTL Porton Down seconded to the MOD. Under an arrangement dating back to 1996, the FCO reimburses the MOD for his staff costs as part of our broader support for UN inspections in Iraq (we similarly fund a number of Iraq-dedicated posts in the Defence Intelligence Staff).

The confusion over the official's status may have arisen because he appeared alongside the Foreign Secretary at a Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on 25 September 2002. On that occasion he was accurately described as an advisor to the FCO.

I should add that the person concerned did have a hand in producing Part 2 of the September dossier, on the history of UNSCOM inspections. Because of his first-hand experience, he was invited to comment on the first draft of that chapter. For the same reason he was also asked to produce the first draft of the box on page 38, entitled "Inspection of Iraq's biological weapons programme".

I am copying this letter to Kevin Tebbit, Andrew Turnbull, Eliza Manningham-Buller, David Manning and John Scarlett.

*Yours em,  
Michael C*

Michael Jay

*CAB / 1 / 0074*