

From: John Williams

Press Office

Date: 18 July 2003

Cc: PS

cc Sir K. Telford, MoD

Sir D. Oswald, Cabinet office

PS/PUS

Peter Ricketts

Tim Dowse

Stephen Pattison

Ed Owen

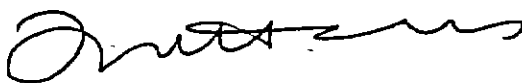
Andrew Patrick

William Ehrman

L.O.E 18/7

DR DAVID KELLY

1. On the afternoon of Tuesday 8 July, Alastair Campbell told me, during a phone call on the media aftermath of the FAC report, that the MoD would soon be putting out a statement saying that an official had come forward to say that he had spoken to Andrew Gilligan. This was the statement which issued around 6.00 pm that day. It did not name the official.
 2. The following afternoon I received several phone calls from journalists trying to identify the official. Eventually, at around 6.00 pm, James Blitz of the Financial Times rang me and asked if the official was Dr David Kelly. Around the same time James's colleague Chris Adams rang Tim Dowse and tried to reach Peter Ricketts to put the names to them. Neither did so.
 3. I told James that I could not confirm or deny his story. I rang the MoD Press Office. They said their approach was to confirm the right name if anyone put it to them. They had just confirmed Dr Kelly's name to James Blitz.
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4. You should also know that Ed Owen e-mailed me sometime before 6.00 pm to say that Patrick Wintour of The Guardian had called him for the name but that he (Ed) had politely declined.



John Williams