



WEDNESDAY
23rd July 2003
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Press Release

20.07.03

BBC NEWS

BBC statement on Dr David Kelly

The BBC deeply regrets the death of Dr David Kelly. We had the greatest respect for his achievements in Iraq and elsewhere over many years and wish once again to express our condolences to his family.

There has been much speculation about whether Dr Kelly was the source for the Today programme report by Andrew Gilligan on May 29

Having now informed Dr Kelly's family, we can confirm that Dr Kelly was the principal source for both Andrew Gilligan's report and for Susan Watts' reports on Newsnight on June 2 and 4

The BBC believes we accurately interpreted and reported the factual information obtained by us during interviews with Dr Kelly

Over the past few weeks we have been at pains to protect Dr Kelly being identified as the source of these reports. We clearly owed him a duty of confidentiality.

Following his death, we now believe, in order to end the continuing speculation, it is important to release this information as swiftly as possible. We did not release it until this morning at the request of Dr Kelly's family.

The BBC will fully co-operate with the Government's inquiry

We will make a full and frank submission to Lord Hutton and will provide full details of all the contacts between Dr Kelly and the two BBC journalists including contemporaneous notes and other materials made by both journalists, independently

We continue to believe we were right to place Dr Kelly's views in the public domain.

However, the BBC is profoundly sorry that his involvement as our source has ended so tragically

Notes to Editors

[Andrew Gilligan statement](#) (20 7 03)

[BBC statement following Andrew Gilligan's appearance before the Foreign Affairs Select Committee](#) (17 07 03)

[Letter from Gavyn Davies, Chairman of the BBC, to Geoff Hoon, Secretary of State for Defence](#) (10 07 03)

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

CAB 11/0242



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BBC Press Release

20.07.03

BBC NEWS

Andrew Gilligan statement 20 July 2003

Statement issued on behalf of Andrew Gilligan

"I want to make it clear that I did not misquote or misrepresent Dr David Kelly

"Entirely separately from my meeting with him, Dr Kelly expressed very similar concerns about Downing Street interpretation of intelligence in the dossier and the unreliability of the 45-minute point to Newsnight.

"These reports have never been questioned by Downing Street.

"Although Dr Kelly had close connections with the intelligence community none of these reports ever described him as a member of the intelligence services, but as a senior official closely involved in the preparation of the dossier."

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[Latest BBC statement regarding the source of the Today programme report on the Iraq dossier \(09 07 03\)](#)

[BBC response to MoD statement \(09 07 03\)](#)

[Letter from Gavyn Davies, Chairman of the BBC, to Geoff Hoon, Secretary of State for Defence \(09 07 03\)](#)

[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 \(03 07 03\)](#)

[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 \(28 06 03\)](#)

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