

**Mr Richard Sambrook**  
**Director of News**  
**BBC**

**July 1st 2003**

Dear Richard,

I was surprised by your desire to wait for the outcome of the Foreign Affairs select committee. The specific point that I have been making, namely that John Humphreys was wrong to claim in an interview with me the BBC checked Gilligan's allegation with the Government prior to broadcast, is not something I would expect the Foreign Affairs Select Committee to adjudicate on.

You will now know, as I do, John Humphreys' claim is untrue.

I have not traduced the whole of the BBC. In fact, I have gone out of my way to praise the superb journalism of the BBC.

All that needs to happen is an apology for broadcasting a false claim which, I note, you are no longer bothering to defend.

With very best wishes,

Ben Bradshaw MP

CAB 11/0393