

**Mr Richard Sambrook  
Director of News  
BBC**

**3 July 2003**

Dear Richard,

On this morning's Today programme, Andrew Marr claimed that the central allegation about No 10's involvement in the September WMD dossier and the 45 minute intelligence "wasn't that they doctored it or fudged it or whatever but that simply that it had been inserted late in the process?" This is totally untrue.

The actual grave and false allegation made was that the 45 minute intelligence was inserted into the dossier by the Government, against the wishes of the intelligence services and despite the fact that the Government probably knew it was false.

Andrew Gilligan on the Today Programme of May 29, said: "What we have been told by one of the senior officials in charge of drawing up that dossier was that actually the Government probably knew that the 45 minute figure was wrong".

He went onto say that the original document prepared by the intelligence agencies was bland and that "Downing Street, our source says, a week before publication, ordered it to be sexed up, to be made more exciting and ordered more facts to be discovered."

On Radio 5, on the same day, Gilligan said intelligence sources 'mentioned a few things which they weren't happy with and at Downing Street's insistence those were written into the document. And one of the main things that they weren't happy with was this claim that Iraq could deploy its biological and chemical weapons within forty five minutes."

There is absolutely no doubt what the central charge broadcast by the BBC was and it was much more serious and specific than the BBC's Political Editor suggested this morning.

I am releasing this letter to the press.

With very best wishes,

Ben Bradshaw MP

CAB/110402