

SENT TO RUS OFFICE AT 08.07 ON TUESDAY 8 JULY
SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL.

Q&A

Who is the official?

The official works within the MOD

What is the official's name and what post is currently held?

Why not?

We have released all the relevant details. There is nothing to gain by revealing the name of the individual who has come forward voluntarily.

Is it x (i.e. the wrong name)?

No

Is it x (i.e the correct name)?

If the correct name is put to us from a number of callers, we will need to tell the individual we are going to confirm his name before doing so.

It is most unusual for a Government Department to make a statement of this sort. Why have you done this?

Can we interview the individual?

No.

Did the official play any role in drawing up the dossier?

Is it a senior figure?

It is not a member of the SCS
(steer – a middle-ranking official)

Where did they meet?

The meeting was in a London hotel. I do not have details of the specific location.

In what form did this official 'confess'?

The official approached the line manager which is standard procedure for raising concerns.

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Why has the official come forward now?

The official has indicated that it follows from recently reading Mr Gilligan's FAC evidence.

What in Mr Gilligan's evidence made the official think this conversation relevant?

The official felt that a number of elements of the conversation had with Mr Gilligan were consistent with Mr Gilligan's evidence to the FAC when describing his conversation with his single source.

Do you believe that your official is the 'single source?'

See statement

Are you suggesting that Andrew Gilligan has deliberately 'sexed up' his story and twisted/exaggerated the information he received?

See statement

This is just spin – you've releasing this information in order to help clear the Government's name?

The official volunteered this information

If/when the existence of the memo (official to line manager) is leaked: Have you published the whole memo and if not, will you?

No. The substance of the issue is contained in our statement. We have nothing to add.

If pushed: a further consideration is that the account names various people who have nothing to do with the story.

The memo was written on 30 June. Why did it take a week to deal with?

The memo was put in the in-tray (true?) of the individual's line manager which is standard procedure for raising concerns. When the line manager had read the memo, senior personnel were informed, including the PUS.

If needed:

The PUS was informed on Thursday afternoon.

When was SofS informed?

PUS informed SofS of the issue on Thursday evening and told him that the individual would be interviewed the following day to establish the facts.

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Did SofS see the memo?

No. SofS was informed of the substance of the memo and told that an interview had been organised to check the facts. He was then briefed on the outcome of the interview.

**If pressed for detail of exactly who knew what and when:
Chronology?**

Has Alastair Campbell/No10 seen the memo?

The relevant Government departments, (i.e. Cabinet office, FCO) including No10, were made aware of the substance.

When were No10 informed?

Why are you not taking disciplinary action?

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**How can you be sure that there has been no breach of the
Official Secrets Act?**

There is no evidence to suggest that a breach of the OSA has occurred.

Have the FAC/ISC been informed?

?

Can they interview him?

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Is the official still at work in MoD?

Yes

Is the official a career diplomat?

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