

In answer to further questions about the BBC, the PMOS said that there were a number of questions still outstanding. They were quite simple:

- Did the BBC still stand by the allegation it had made on 29 May that No 10 had added in the 45-minute claim?
- Did it still stand by the allegation made on the same day that we had done so against the wishes of the intelligence agencies?
- Did it still stand by the allegation made on that day that both we and the intelligence agencies had known that the 45-minute claim was wrong?
- Did it still stand by the allegation, again on the same day, that we had ordered the September dossier to be 'sexed up' in the period leading up to its publication – that it had been "cobbled together at the last minute with some unconfirmed material that had not been approved by the security services" (Today Programme, 29 May)?
- Did it still stand by the statement made on 6 June that the JIC was not part of the intelligence community but was a Number 10 Committee whose job was to arbitrate between the Government and the intelligence agencies?
- Did it stand by the claim on 3 June that the Chairman of the JIC only "kind of bureaucratically signed off his report"?

And there were other questions which had yet to be answered:

- How many sources was the original allegation about 45-minutes being added on based on? Was it one source, or more than one source?
- Was that source on the JIC, given the fact that only the JIC had the full picture?
- Why had the BBC's journalist not checked the story with us before broadcast? Was this now normal BBC practice for all stories?
- If that was so, would it broadcast a story, for instance alleging financial malpractice by a member of its Board of Management, without checking it first?
- Finally, did the BBC believe that its one anonymous source outweighed the combined weight of the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, the Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, the security and intelligence co-ordinator, and the heads of the intelligence agencies?

Asked why Mr Campbell had made him read out the questions, the PMOS said that Mr Campbell had not 'made him' do anything. He was perfectly capable of writing his own scripts, thank you very much.

Asked if we had written a letter to the BBC containing all the above questions, or whether we were delivering those questions through the Lobby this morning, the PMOS said it was the latter. Asked how far up the chain of command at the BBC we had gone in order to obtain answers, the PMOS said that as Alastair Campbell had underlined to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee yesterday, we had

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