

subsequently shown to be true. This increased his general credibility after the original broadcast on 29 May. Many of the things denied by No 10 were never claimed by the source or by the BBC. All of the government denials were given full coverage by the BBC in countless programmes. It is not clear on what basis the BBC could have withdrawn the allegations made by David Kelly and reported by Gilligan and Watts. Putting it bluntly, should the BBC "withdraw" any and all of its news reports as soon as they are denied by the government press machine? Surely not.

6. Why did the BBC not make it known that David Kelly was the source earlier on?

Hopefully this will become obvious to everyone. In order to protect the name of a source, who was himself not admitting to his employer everything it is claimed he said to BBC journalists, it was necessary to maintain confidentiality about his name while he was still alive. Now that he has died, the BBC has no source to protect, and BBC News could therefore confirm that he was the source (after consulting his family). If we had confirmed that he was the source when Geoff Hoon asked us to do so last week, we would have in effect had been telling the Ministry of Defence that Dr Kelly had possibly misled the MoD about the extent of what he said to BBC journalists. The BBC would have been in effect exposing him to his employer. That would have been a very odd way to protect a source.

7. Did the Chairman deliberately mislead the Governors by using the description "senior intelligence source" in the Governors' statement.

I hope that you feel that I did not do so. While I obviously had my suspicions, I genuinely did not know that the BBC source was Dr. Kelly until last Friday. And in any event I do not think that the description used in our statement was in any meaningful sense misleading given Dr Kelly's access to intelligence material.

8. Should the Governors re-examine the style of BBC news reporting, especially in the realm of investigative journalism rather than reporting the news?

I will be guided by all of you on this question. I am sure that there is a general desire among Governors to look again at the general style of BBC news reporting, and the question of training and maintaining standards, as well as the question of writing articles for outside newspapers. We can come to this once the current firestorm has died down.

This extraordinary series of events has put unprecedented strains on the BBC, its governance and its management. I continue to believe that our structures have

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