

95. We also asked Sir David Ormand if he was aware of any concerns in the intelligence community. He replied that in the organisations for which he had responsibility he was not aware of any concerns, but that the Committee would need to ask the MoD about the DIS as that was not his responsibility. Sir David then wrote to the MoD to inform it that we were likely to raise this issue when the Defence Secretary came to give evidence.

96. Prior to his first appearance before us on 22 July, the Defence Secretary received a minute that stated that two members of the DIS had written with concerns over the text in the draft dossier. The recommendation of this MoD minute was that any attempts by the Committee to see the letters from the staff or to take evidence from them should be resisted but that the Committee should be informed of the areas of concern.

97. When we spoke to the MoD on 22 July about whether or not any DIS staff had expressed concerns about the drafting of the dossier, the Defence Secretary told us that "there had been a dispute" in the context of the 45 minutes claim about whether it was better to say that the intelligence was "showing" or "indicating". The Defence Secretary did not tell us that two members of the DIS had written with concerns. Nor did his officials, even when pressed on this matter, after the Defence Secretary had left.

98. The then CDI, Air Marshal Sir Joe French, told us that.

*"... for each paper I would have the range of specialists who had been involved in them, obviously splitting hairs on particular words. But ultimately, putting 45 minutes in a military context when this was going through, I had to make a corporate decision on which draft we would actually live with. So the fact that this discussion goes on was just a weekly event as far as I was concerned – lively debate within the DIS"*

99. We were told that all the concerns had been discussed within the DIS as part of the normal drafting process. The Defence Secretary said that.

*"I think that's a rather healthy indication and I think it's a rather healthy situation that people have both the self-confidence to say 'hang on, we think this word is not quite as accurate as it should be', and moreover that the system not only tolerates that but encourages it."*

We recognise that such debate is healthy and that at the end of a discussion a decision needs to be made, and that the CDI makes the decision for the DIS.

100. It was not until shortly before his appearance before the Hutton Inquiry that the current Deputy Chief of Defence Intelligence (DCDI), Martin Howard, informed us that two members of the DIS had written to their line managers on 19 and 20 September with concerns over the language used in the draft dossier. These letters had also been copied to the then DCDI, but not to the Defence Secretary or the JIC Chairman.