

The dossier, published in September last year, was launched in the Commons by the Prime Minister himself. It received saturation coverage. In the preface, Mr Blair stated explicitly that some of Saddam's weapons of mass destruction could be ready within 45 minutes of an order to use them. One senior British official has now told us that the original version of the dossier produced by the intelligence services added little to what was already publicly known. But one week before publication, said this official, the dossier was "transformed" on Downing Street's orders. The now infamous "45 minute" assertion was one of several claims added - against the wishes of the intelligence agencies, who said it was from a single source which they didn't necessarily believe. The official told the BBC that most people in intelligence were unhappy with the dossier, because it did not reflect the considered view they were putting forward.