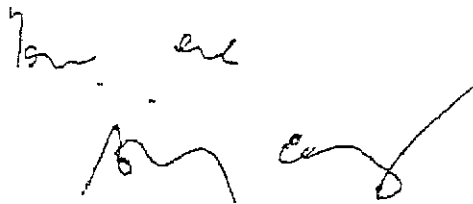


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In a rather pathetic attempt to stand up his story, Gilligan claimed subsequently that the story has also been subsequently corroborated by, among others, Clare Short and Robin Cook. Can you spell out which elements of Gilligan's original story they are on the record as having corroborated which have not been addressed by the Prime Minister?

Gilligan also cites Adam Ingram as having corroborated his story that the "45 minutes" claim was based on intelligence from only one source and that it was added into the dossier by me. However Adam Ingram and the Prime Minister, the latter having consulted the Chairman of the JIC, have made it absolutely clear that this piece of information was not inserted into the dossier by No10. It came from an established and reliable line of reporting and was consistent with previous intelligence assessments. Its use was approved by the JIC after going through the usual rigorous process of assessment. The Prime Minister, having again consulted the Chairman of JIC, has confirmed this, and that the allegations made by Gilligan and his "source" are not true.

You will, I imagine, seek to defend your reporting, as you always do. In this case, you would be defending the indefensible. On the word of a single, uncorroborated source, you have allowed one reporter to drive the BBC's coverage. We are left wondering why you have guidelines at all, given that they are so persistently breached without any comeback whatsoever.



ALASTAIR CAMPBELL

Mr. Richard Sambrook
BBC

Enclosures

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