

In response to this we have provided the Government with frequent and ample opportunities to state their position and rebut the allegations and this you have done. This is a perfectly fair and proper journalistic process which we stand by.

Now to your questions and I make no apology for repeating some of the points I have just made.

- Does the BBC still stand by the allegation it made on 29th May that Number 10 added in the 45 minute claim to the dossier ?*

The allegation was not made by the BBC but by our source – a senior official involved in the compilation of the dossier - and the BBC stands by the reporting of it.

Andrew Gilligan made it clear that according to his source the 45 minute claim was real, but unreliable, intelligence information.

We do not report everything that every source tells us. In this instance we believe that the source is credible and that it was legitimate to place his concerns in the public domain given what we knew of the February dossier and the other points I have listed above. We stand by this decision.

- Does it still stand by the allegation made on the same day that we did so against the wishes of the intelligence agencies?*

Again we reported accurately what we had been told by the source that the 45 minute claim was included in the dossier “against our wishes.”

- Does it still stand by the allegation made on that day that both we and the intelligence agencies knew the 45 minute claim to be wrong and inserted it despite knowing that.*

Andrew Gilligan accurately reported the source telling him that the government “probably knew that the 45 minute figure was wrong” and that the claim was “questionable.” The basis for this assertion by Andrew Gilligan’s source was that the information about the 45