

DG  
MB

**Secretary of State for Defence, Geoff Hoon statement to Press Association:**

"Comments made by John Humphrys on the Today Programme this morning have been drawn to my attention. They need to be corrected.

"Andrew Gilligan did not call MoD to discuss either WMD or the dossier. He spoke to the MoD about an interview request for the following day on a different issue altogether.

"When he was asked what other stories would be on the programme, Mr Gilligan mentioned that he was planning a story on WMD. However, he said the WMD story was not an issue for the MoD. He did not give any details or ask for a response. He made clear that he did not view MoD as the relevant Government department.

"I strongly support the request to the BBC to correct this morning's misleading comments. They are simply untrue."

Ends.

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