

HOW WE REPORTED WHAT THE SOURCE SAID - AND WHAT WE KNOW

"The source is a credible figure, who has been right on certain crucial points. As yet, there is no proof that the source was wrong about anything. Let me conclude by saying that if your committee unanimously decides, on the basis of concrete evidence, that any part of story was wrong we will correct it and report publicly any allegations made by the source which were wrong" (BBC's letter to FAC)

1. Timing of transformation of dossier owing to 45-minute claim

How we reported the source:

- A week before publication date it was rather a bland production
- Draft prepared for Blair by intelligence services didn't say very much more than was public knowledge already
- 45 minute point probably the most important thing that was added
- 45 minute WMD "ready for use" claim not in the original draft.

What we know:

- Work on the dossier had started by March 2002. But the intelligence relating to the 45-minute claim was not even received until early September (Straw's evidence, Q1206) It was therefore added at a late stage in the entire process. It first appeared in a draft of the dossier on 10 September, only two weeks prior to eventual publication.
- At the end of August / beginning of September, well-informed newspaper stories were saying that the dossier would not be "revelatory" (Times, 29/8) and there was "very little new to put into it" (Guardian, 5/9).

2. Quality of intelligence re 45-minute claim

How we reported the source.

- 45-minute claim only from one source – most other claims from two.
- Person who dealt with / provided the intelligence had actually made a mistake, got mixed up.

What we know:

- On Today programme (29/5) the Armed Forces minister Adam Ingram admitted that the 45-minute claim was based on a single source and had not been corroborated

3. Downing St / government role

How we reported the source

- The government probably knew that the 45 minute figure was wrong even before it decided to put it in.
- Downing St ordered it (dossier) to be sexed up, made more exciting and ordered more facts to be discovered
- It could have been an honest mistake but what I [Andrew Gilligan] have been told is that the government knew the claim was questionable. even before the war, even before they wrote it in their dossier.
- Transformation of dossier took place at the behest of Downing St

What we know

- Alastair Campbell sought 11 changes to the second draft of the dossier that was sent to him on 17 Sep (Guardian, 3 July). This included requests for

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