

for impact". He said that, as an expert in the field, he believed that Saddam Hussein possessed WMD.

The BBC has stated that it was not themselves but the source who was making the allegations in Mr Gilligan's story. The BBC had a duty to report what the source stated. The individual who has now come forward may be identical with Mr Gilligan's source. I am separately passing you his name. You should know that I am copying this letter to Gavin Davis at the BBC. I am suggesting that he should arrange for the name of Mr Gilligan's source, which I understand is known to BBC senior managers, to be passed to you on a private basis so that you can make a comparison.

The official is ready to be interviewed by your Committee if you wish.

The text of this letter, but not the name of the individual, will be published shortly.

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