

DRAFT - NOT FOR USE

MOD STATEMENT

An individual working in the MoD has come forward to volunteer that he met Andrew Gilligan on 22 May to discuss Iraq in general. This was one week before Mr Gilligan's story ran on the Today Programme, claiming that the Iraq September dossier had been "sexed up".

The official ^{has} volunteered that he ^{created by} had known Mr Gilligan for some time. At the meeting in a hotel on 22 May, the Iraqi WMD programme, including the "45 minutes" issue, was ^{raised} discussed, together with some of the other elements of Mr Gilligan's ~~claims~~ story.

Mr Gilligan did not have access to the intelligence report on 45 minutes

This individual was not "one of the senior officials in charge of drawing up the dossier" as Mr Gilligan claimed his source was in his evidence to the FAC. ^{is an expert in WMD} Nor is ^{he} a member of the intelligence services. ^{During the meeting} Crucially, although Mr Gilligan raised the ^{issue} of Alastair Campbell, since the individual was not involved in the process he did not comment. He says he made no allegations or accusations about any issue related to the dossier, in particular that the 45 minutes intelligence had been inserted by Mr Campbell or Downing Street against the wishes of the intelligence community. ^{When asked by Mr Gilligan why}

Mr Gilligan has made it clear that he had only one source for the specific "45 minute" story and the accusations related to it. From the account we have received from the MoD official, this leads us to conclude that either there was more than one source, or Mr Gilligan misled his employers about the information the MoD official discussed with him.

PTO

We assume the Intelligence Service Committee will take this into account in their enquiry should they so wish.

The 45 minute report was in the dossier he saw it was probably for use. He ^{said} he believed, as an expert in the field, that Saddam Hussein possessed WMD.

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