

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 <sup>of that</sup> [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 <sup>has</sup> volunteered that he 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 discussed, <sup>read by the BBC</sup> together with some of the other elements of Mr Gilligan's <sup>claims</sup> claims.

as the BBC's  
Director  
has said

(It did not occur 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 to be was in his evidence to the FAC. Nor is he a member of the intelligence services. 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. <sup>As he says he believes, there is an expert in the field, the source (from point) was 0</sup>

When asked by  
Mr Gilligan  
why the 45 minutes  
was in the dossier  
he said he  
it was put  
for impact

Source

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 <sup>and the public</sup> about the information the MoD official discussed with him.

will be relevant to the report and

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

The other has been in Iraq ready and  
it would not have been possible for  
Mr Gilligan to recall his own source

CAB/1/0052

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