

**Mr Richard Sambrook
Head of News
BBC**

June 28th 2003

Dear Richard,

During my interview on the Today programme this morning your presenter, John Humphrys, asserted the BBC had checked out the allegation made by Andrew Gilligan on the Today Programme on May 29th beforehand with the Ministry of Defence.

I have spoken to the MOD at some length, including with the official the BBC claims was given the opportunity to respond to this allegation. The MOD remains certain that the only contact between the Today programme and the MOD press office related to an interview on the use of cluster bombs. Mr Gilligan was asked whether any other issues would be raised in the interview. He mentioned a separate story on WMD, gave no further details and, critically, made it clear that this was not an MOD issue and he was not seeking a response from them.

I would be grateful if on Monday morning the Today programme corrected the false statement that the MOD was given an opportunity to respond to this allegation prior to its broadcast.

With very best wishes,

Ben Bradshaw MP

CAB/1/0389