



THE TREASURY SOLICITOR

Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS
DX 123242 St James's Park Switchboard 020 7210 3000 (GTN 210)

Cabinet Office and Central Advisory Division

Direct Line: 020 7210 4591 Direct Fax: 020 7210 3503 E-mail: SMcGibbon@treasury-solicitor.gsi.gov.uk

J Dingemans QC
Hutton Inquiry
2nd Floor
81 Chancery Lane
London
WC2A 1DD

Please quote:

Your reference

Date: 26 August 2003

BY FAX: 020 7855 5299

Dear Mr Dingemans

Hutton Inquiry: Evidence of Godric Smith

I attach an email from Godric Smith to Clare Sumner dated 9th July 2003 which has only recently come to light. I thought it important to explain why Mr Smith did not cover it in his witness statement or in evidence to the Inquiry.

After the Inquiry had been announced, a search was made in No.10 on 20th July for all emails and other documents relating to the subject matter of the inquiry. Attention focused on emails upon which action had been taken and these were collated and sent to the inquiry. On 22nd August Clare Sumner recalled having seen a print out of it from Mr Smith's computer on 20th July and realised that it might be of interest to the Inquiry, given its questions concerning the atmosphere in No 10 at the time. It was then that she opened the email for the first time. She had not opened it before because she was too occupied with other matters and no action from her was required. As it had no bearing on any action taken by No.10, it had not been brought to Mr Smith's attention for the purpose of preparing his witness statement and he did not then recall having sent it. Mr Smith was reminded of it on 22nd August.

The purpose of the "document" was for Mr Smith to explain the significance of Mr Gilligan's response to John Maples MP in the Foreign Affairs Committee to Ms Sumner which he had earlier tried to do in a brief conversation. As Ms Sumner was extremely busy they agreed he would send an email to explain the point. He wrote it in this way to enable him to illustrate the point with greater clarity and more succinctly.

As it has now come to light, I thought you should have the opportunity of taking a view on its relevance to Lord Hutton's Inquiry. It seems to us that it does not add anything to the evidence you have already heard from No.10 witnesses. It did not form the basis of any action nor was it part of any decision making. It reflects the views expressed by Mr Smith in his evidence to the Inquiry on 20th August 2003 about the significance of Mr Gilligan's response to John Maples MP in his evidence to the Foreign Affairs Committee that he had spoken to only one of his four sources about the September Dossier before making his broadcast. Equally it reflects the general view, about which several witnesses have given evidence, that the fact of an individual coming forward was material to the Foreign Affairs Committee inquiry.



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