

Suggested Questions to Dr David Kelly

Dr David Kelly is a Porton Down scientist and former UNSCOM arms inspector in Iraq, presently acting as an adviser to the MoD's Director of counter-proliferation and arms control. The MoD pays his salary, but it is understood that the FCO reimburses the MoD for staff costs as part of its wider support for UN inspections in Iraq and counter-proliferation policy.

Dr Kelly appeared before the Committee's war against terrorism inquiry last year to give oral evidence alongside the Foreign Secretary, when he was described as an "Adviser to the Non-Proliferation Department"

Dr Kelly's involvement in the September dossier

Andrew Gilligan told the Committee that "The story that began the fuss came from the single source" [Q417]. On the Today programme on 29th May, he said that "I have spoken to a British official who was involved in the preparation of the dossier and he told me that until the week before it was published the draft dossier produced by the intelligence services adds little to what was already publicly known. He said, 'It was transformed the week before it was published to make it sexier'. The classic example was the statement that WMD were ready for use in 45 minutes. That information was not in the original draft. It was included in the dossier against their wishes because it wasn't reliable."

Gilligan has described his source as "a civil servant in the non-secret part of the civil service as distinct from the secret part" [Q402] and "one of the senior officials in charge of drawing up the dossier and I can tell you that he is a source of longstanding, well-known to me, closely connected with the question of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, easily sufficiently senior and credible to be worth reporting" [Q418].

The MoD statement states that Dr Kelly "is not 'one of the senior officials in charge of drawing up the dossier' [and] is not a member of the intelligence services or the Defence Intelligence Staff"

1. What is your background as a civil servant and an UNSCOM inspector; and what was your position from March to September last year?
2. What was your involvement in the preparation of the September dossier; and when did it commence?

The MoD statement states that Dr Kelly told Gilligan that "he was not involved in the process of drawing up the intelligence parts of the Dossier [and] did not see the 45 minute intelligence report on which [the 45 minute claim] was based"

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