

Q411 Chairman: If they tell a press officer that there has been undue interference, this must surely be contrary to any terms of engagement of a public servant.

Mr Gilligan: In my experience, the intelligence agencies do sometimes do things in a calculated fashion, and maybe some of these contacts were such contacts.

Q412 Chairman: In a calculated fashion.

Mr Gilligan: They are not unlike any other part of government, in that they sometimes want to get a message across.

Q413 Andrew Mackinlay: That is rather making Reid's point, is it not? Rogue elements.

Mr Gilligan: No, I do not think it does.

Q414 Andrew Mackinlay: I am sorry to interrupt but it just occurred to me. Reid came into my mind then.

Mr Gilligan: I do not think you should assume that these are necessarily rogue elements. I do not think that has entered into it.

Q415 Chairman: You think they are doing a public service, do you, by leaking their views to you?

Mr Gilligan: I have no opinion on what they do to me; I am just grateful for the information as a journalist.

Q416 Chairman: Grateful for the information.

Mr Gilligan: Yes.

Q417 Mr Maples: I wonder if we can just establish not who these people are, because I am sure you are not going to tell us that, but where they are coming from. I have been looking at the transcripts of your appearances on the *Today* programme, May 29 and June 4. On May 29 you started by saying, "I have spoken to a British official who was involved in the preparation of the dossier," and you say, "I want to stress that this official and others I have spoken to ..." Then on June 4 you say that, while the quotes came from a single source, "... four people over the last six months in or connected with the intelligence community have expressed concern ..." etcetera. What I want to try to establish is: are these people all, or are some of them, actually currently working in one of the intelligence agencies? Or, when you say a British official, do you mean someone in No 10 or on the JIC assessments staff? Could you try to establish where these sources are coming from?

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