

Mr Gilligan: Anger is too strong a word; I would use the word disquiet.

Q477 Mr Chidgey: Do you think it might stem not so much from the way the information has been used in this particular case but from the fact that it is a sort of change in the relationship between the intelligence services and the Government of the day and the Prime Minister attempting to bring the Parliament, the Government and the country behind him on this view that we would have to prosecute this war? He has possibly gone further than any previous Prime Minister in setting out the case using intelligence information. Is this maybe the sort of cultural change to the issue that is causing the disquiet amongst the intelligence services in that they are not happy that the previous information that was only shared with key members of Government is now being perhaps slightly sanitised and shared with the nation?

Mr Gilligan: I think that is in part fair. We do need to stress, this story took on the life it did because everyone else's intelligence sources were saying the same things as mine were saying to me. One of the complaints made by some of our intelligence sources, not just mine but across the press, was that intelligence services are secret and they do not like necessarily having their work exposed to the public gaze. Yes, I think that is partly fair.

Q478 Mr Illsley: What you are saying is that your source told you that the 45 minute claim was unreliable, is it not?

Mr Gilligan: Yes.

Q479 Mr Illsley: So the claim existed in intelligence terms but it had not been corroborated and was unreliable.

Mr Gilligan: Yes.

Q480 Mr Illsley: Basically whichever committee holds an inquiry into this will have access to the raw data and they will find that claim somewhere in the intelligence reports from the intelligence community.

Mr Gilligan: It was not a claim that was in any way made up or fabricated by Downing Street. Another one of the reasons why this story took on the life that it did was that Downing Street denied a number of things which had never been alleged. They denied, among other things, that material had been fabricated. Nobody ever alleged that material had been fabricated.

Q481 Sir John Stanley: Mr Gilligan, in one of the responses you gave to Mr Pope your answer raised serious doubts in my mind as to the technical knowledge of your source in this area. You said in answer to Mr Pope's question that your source based his view about the

FAC/2/0148