

Dr Kelly: During May? I cannot precisely remember. I was abroad for a fair part of the time in May, but it is possible, yes.

Q47 Ms Stuart: Have you had any conversations or meetings with Gavin Hewitt?

Dr Kelly: Not that I am aware of, no. I am pretty sure I have not.

Q48 Mr Olnier: Mr Gilligan's article in the *Mail on Sunday* of 1 June states that the location of your meeting was a central London hotel and that you were waiting for Mr Gilligan when he got there. At whose request did that meeting take place between you and Mr Gilligan?

Dr Kelly: Mr Gilligan.

Q49 Mr Olnier: Any idea why he requested it?

Dr Kelly: For the reasons that I offered to the Chairman. Sorry, which one are we talking about?

Q50 Mr Olnier: The one on 22 May.

Dr Kelly: The outcome of the first meeting I had with him in February was that he would provide me with feedback from his visit to Iraq, since I am interested in Iraq, interested in other people's perspectives on Iraq and the process. That was the reason for meeting with him, to get feedback on that visit.

Q51 Mr Olnier: Was this not a two-way process, that you wanted also to communicate other things to Mr Gilligan?

Dr Kelly: No.

Q52 Mr Olnier: It was simply a journalist fishing for information that you had got and you wanted to give to him?

Dr Kelly: No, it was an occasion on which I expected to get information about Iraq, about some of the personalities that he either had encountered or attempted to encounter, his experiences during the war itself and the experiences he had with Iraqi minders when he was acting as a journalist before the war.

Q53 Mr Olnier: Obviously you have read Mr Gilligan's accounts of the meeting, including the evidence that he gave to this Committee. Is there anything in Mr Gilligan's accounts that you dispute?

Dr Kelly: I think you would have to ask me the specific question.

Q54 Mr Olnier: You have obviously read it.

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