

As we have already made clear the conversation on 28 May was actually about a piece on the use of cluster bombs in Iraq and a possible interview bid for Adam Ingram. Mr Gilligan did not discuss any other story. He was asked whether he was working on anything else for the programme. He then mentioned that he was working on something else about WMD. He did not discuss any detail of this story, he did not put any questions about it to the MOD and most importantly, he said that this was not a story for the MOD. By his own admission he did not regard MOD as the relevant Government department. I cannot see how this can be described as 'checking the story'.

Although Mr Gilligan has already told us that he believes this was the relevant conversation, your letter to Ben Bradshaw also lists other conversations between the MOD and the Today Programme on 28 May and suggests that these conversations were about WMD. The times and details of all out-of-hours calls to the MOD Press Office are logged. This record shows that your account is inaccurate.

8 00pm - call from Ian Watson confirming that the Today Programme definitely wanted Adam Ingram on the programme.

10 30pm - call from Chris Howard asking if Adam Ingram would do two minutes on WMD at the end of the interview on cluster bombs. The two running issues about WMD at the time were comments made by Donald Rumsfeld earlier and the second WMD briefing paper. He did not mention dossiers and he said he did not know the detail of the piece.

Finally, you suggest that Adam Ingram must have known about the piece in advance because he was able to answer questions on the programme. You will recall that Mr Gilligan's first item on the story ran at 6 07am. This broadcast was the first time anyone in MOD was aware of the 45 minutes/dossier story.

MOD/9/0015