

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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3. What access did you have to intelligence material? Did you see any of the intelligence which was used in the dossier?
4. Did you see any of the JIC assessments between March and September which eventually formed the basis of the dossier?
5. Which drafts of the dossier did you see?
6. What meetings did you attend at which the dossier was discussed?
7. Did you at any time in the course of preparation of the September dossier raise any concerns which were not then acted upon?

Dr Kelly's contacts with Andrew Gilligan

Gilligan described Dr Kelly as a "longstanding" contact. In his 1st June article in the Mail on Sunday, he wrote that "We'd both been too busy to meet for nearly a year" when the 22nd May meeting took place.

The MoD statement states that Kelly had known Gilligan "for some months" The BBC's statement states that "Mr Gilligan's source does not work in the Ministry of Defence and he has known the source for a number of years not months "

8. How long have you known Andrew Gilligan?
9. How many times have you met him? Were any of your contacts with him authorised?
10. How frequently did you speak to him on the telephone, or exchange e-mails or correspondence?

The BBC statement states that "Mr Gilligan's notes and account of what he was told are very similar to the notes of a conversation Susan Watts, Science Editor of Newsnight, had with her source which led to the Newsnight reports of June 2 and 4. These reports contained allegations consistent with the Gilligan report and she described her source as 'a senior official intimately involved with process of pulling together the September dossier'."

11. Have you also met Susan Watts of the BBC *Newsnight* programme? If so, when?
12. Did you ensure that Mr Gilligan was fully aware of your position in MoD and of the extent of your access (or lack of access) to intelligence?

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The 22nd May meeting between Dr Kelly and Andrew Gilligan

Gilligan's Mail on Sunday article of 1st June states that "The location was a central London hotel and the source was waiting as I got there. We'd both been too busy to meet for nearly a year, but there was no sign this would be anything more than a routine get-together."

13. At whose request did the meeting between you and Mr Gilligan on 22nd May take place?

14. Was there something which you wanted to communicate to Mr Gilligan? If so, what was it?

Gilligan's central allegation is as follows "The source's claim was that the dossier had been transformed in the week before it was published and I asked, 'So how did this transformation happen?', and the answer was a single word, which was 'Campbell'. I asked, 'What do you mean, Campbell made it up?', and he answered, 'No. It was real information'—this is the 45 minute claim—but it was included in the dossier against our wishes because it was not reliable. It was a single source and it was not reliable.' He also said that Downing Street officials, he did not name anybody else, had asked repeatedly if there was anything else that could be included on seeing the original draft of the dossier which was considered dull" [Q457]

15. You have read Mr Gilligan's accounts of the meeting, including his evidence to this Committee. Is there anything in Mr Gilligan's account which you dispute?

Gilligan "My source did not believe it [the 45 minutes claim] was reliable. He believed that that single source had made a mistake, that he had confused the deployment time for a conventional missile with the deployment time for a CBW missile. He did not believe that any missiles had been armed with CBW that would therefore be able to be fireable at 45 minutes' notice. He believed that claim was unreliable" [Q461]

16. What exactly did you tell Mr Gilligan about the 45 minutes claim?

Gilligan told the Committee that "He [the source] was quite cutting about the claim that uranium had been sought from Africa. He was of the opinion .. that that was unreliable information." [QQ453-4]

17. What exactly did you tell Mr Gilligan about the uranium from Africa claim?

18. What exactly did you tell Mr Gilligan about the process by which the September dossier was compiled?

19. In particular, did you suggest or agree that the September dossier had been exaggerated, embellished, or otherwise changed for political reasons?

In his 1st June Mail on Sunday article, Gilligan wrote that "I asked him how this transformation happened. The answer was a single word, 'Campbell.' What? Campbell made it up? 'No, it was real information. But it was included against our wishes because it wasn't reliable.'"

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The MoD statement states that "when Mr Gilligan asked about the role of Alastair Campbell with regard to the 45 minute issue, he made no comment and explained that he was not involved in the process of drawing up the intelligence parts of the dossier "

20. Did you name or otherwise identify Alastair Campbell, or say anything which Mr Gilligan might have reasonably interpreted as identifying Alastair Campbell?

Gilligan told the Committee that "I reported the source as saying there was unhappiness within the intelligence services, disquiet within the intelligence services " [Q452]

21. Did you suggest or agree that members of the intelligence and security services were unhappy about the September dossier or any of the statements made in that dossier?

22. On the basis of Mr Gilligan's evidence and public broadcasts, do you believe that you could be the "single source" he has described as being the basis for his allegations?

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