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**HEADLINE:** Dr Kelly: I felt betrayed when the MoD revealed my name

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**BODY:**

\* Family said life 'intolerable' \* Scientist slashed his wrist

DAVID KELLY felt betrayed by the leaking of his name and was put under "intolerable" pressure by being placed at the centre of the row between the government and the BBC

The government scientist, who was found dead in a field with a slashed wrist near his home on Friday, also said he was put "through the wringer" during meetings with Ministry of Defence (MoD) officials and spoke of "many dark actors playing games"

The disclosures, made in an interview and e-mails, came as cabinet ministers privately admitted yesterday that the affair marked the biggest political crisis of Tony Blair's premiership

In what is believed to be his last interview before he died, Kelly told The Sunday Times he had been telephoned by the MoD warning him that he would be identified the following day "I am shocked," he said "I was told the whole thing would be confidential "

His sense of betrayal was palpable and he felt profoundly let down by the MoD. Kelly's name was published in newspapers days after a letter naming him was sent by Geoff Hoon, the defence secretary, to Gavyn Davies, chairman of the BBC.

Last night it emerged that Kelly's name was confirmed to at least three newspapers by Pam Teare, the MoD's director of news, on July 9, after journalists put it to her

Hoon defended his actions in passing Kelly's name to the BBC He said he had written an "entirely confidential letter" to the BBC chairman He also denied the MoD had leaked Kelly's name, saying "I'm not aware that his name was leaked."

Kelly himself, before he gave evidence to a parliamentary committee, said he was convinced he was the intelligence source quoted by the BBC in its now controversial report on evidence of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction broadcast on May 22 "It is pretty obvious I was the source," he said

In comments, some of which he asked to be off the record. Kelly said he was feeling the strain of weeks of pressure as the row intensified over the identity of the BBC's source.

"It has been a difficult time, as you can imagine," he said He said "for the record", he had not been reprimanded or pressured by the MoD, which "had been quite good about it". But there are suggestions that Kelly feared he might lose his pension or even his job if he did not co-operate.

Last week Adam Ingram, the armed forces minister, challenged the BBC to rule out the scientist as the source, saying "Hopefully, that would allow Dr Kelly to carry on with his career in the MoD."

Several weeks earlier an MoD source had said there was a determination to identify the BBC's mole and name him in an attempt to force an apology from the corporation

Police confirmed yesterday that the cause of Kelly's death was bleeding from a wound on his left wrist. A knife and painkiller tablets were found near his body

There was speculation in Westminster that the affair would lead to the departure of Alastair Campbell, the prime

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minister's director of strategy and communications. This weekend Campbell told friends that he felt "sick" when he heard of Kelly's death. He is expected to leave Downing Street this year, but will stay until the judicial inquiry under Lord Hutton is completed.

There is growing evidence Kelly felt caught in the battle being waged by the MoD, No10 and the BBC over the government's justification for going to war with Iraq.

In an e-mail sent to an American journalist on the day he died, Kelly referred to "many dark actors playing games". The e-mail was written hours before he told his wife he was going for a walk on Thursday.

In other messages he seemed to be looking forward to returning to Iraq. In one, Kelly wrote he would "wait until the end of the week" before judging reaction to his testimony.

In another he said "Hopefully it will soon pass and I will get back to Baghdad and get on with the job."

A statement from Kelly's family, released yesterday, said: "Events over recent weeks have made David's life intolerable and all of those involved should reflect long and hard on this fact."

One family member was reported as saying he would be looking for "someone who is going to pay for this, because somewhere along the line someone needs to pay for this."

Derek Vawdrey, the scientist's brother-in-law, said: "David put his head above the parapet and promptly got it shot off. The government was looking for someone to hang the title of mole on and David paid the ultimate price for that. He simply couldn't take the pressure."

The government said appointing Hutton, a law lord, reflected the seriousness of its desire to get to the bottom of the matter. A key issue will be how Kelly's name was made public. It is expected Campbell and other senior government figures will be called to give evidence.

Richard Sambrook, the head of BBC news, has also been accused of dropping "pretty big hints" about the identity of the BBC's source to bolster the corporation's claims that the source was sufficiently senior to have been involved in the preparation of the government's intelligence dossier.

Today, however, Vincent Nichols, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham, will implicitly criticise the BBC at a service in Lichfield Cathedral. He is expected to say: "It distresses me deeply to think there are people in positions of eminent public responsibility who know the answer to the questions Dr Kelly was being asked. Yet they remain silent, believing the confidentiality of their sources is more important. More important than one man's life? I think not."

Kelly's initial indication that he was the source is said to have been written in confidence to his line manager on June 30, volunteering that he had met Andrew Gilligan, a BBC defence correspondent.

It was said yesterday that Kelly was prompted to write by a colleague who worked for the Royal United Services Institute. The colleague had drawn Kelly's attention to the fact that parts of Gilligan's evidence to the Commons foreign affairs committee - in which the BBC reporter discussed what his source told him - bore close similarities to Kelly's own "turns of phrase".

Pressure on Kelly increased further when he was told he would have to appear before the Commons intelligence and security committee and the foreign affairs committee on successive days. Colleagues believed he thought he had a deal with the MoD to go before the intelligence committee in return for anonymity. He was anxious at the prospect of a televised appearance in front of the foreign affairs committee.

Andrew Mackinlay, a Labour member of the foreign affairs committee, apologised yesterday for his harsh questioning of Kelly during Tuesday's hearing.

Mackinlay had been accused by Tom Mangold, a former BBC correspondent and friend of Kelly, of "jeering" at him during questioning when he dismissed him as "chaff".

As pressure mounted on the government, Blair yesterday urged people to wait for the inquiry to report before reaching judgments. In the meantime they "should show respect and restraint".

Glenda Jackson, the Labour MP, called for Blair, Campbell and Hoon to resign. The inquiry into Kelly's death

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would paralyse the government while Blair remained, she said.

Additional reporting:

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