

DRAFT LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF STATE TO DONALD ANDERSON MP

Thank you for your letter dated 10 July about Dr David Kelly's meeting with Andrew Gilligan

I understand that Dr Kelly met Mr Gilligan at the Charing Cross Hotel on the 22 May.

You also ask that Dr Kelly appear before the FAC. As you know the Government has already suggested that the Intelligence and Security Committee might seek to take evidence from Dr Kelly and that we would not object. This was because your enquiry had completed and Dr Kelly's evidence would be unlikely to change the fundamental conclusions that you had reached. The ISC, on the other hand, are only just beginning their work. I therefore intend to write to the Chairman of the ISC to agree that Dr Kelly gives evidence next Tuesday as they have requested.

I understand that the ISC usually conduct their hearings in camera. You will wish to be aware, however, that I have indicated to the Chairman that, given the public interest involved in this case and the fact that Dr Kelly's evidence is unlikely to touch on classified information, I would be content for Dr Kelly to give evidence in public

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