



Sir Gus O'Donnell KCB

Secretary of the Cabinet and
Head of the Home Civil Service

70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

Telephone 020 7276 0101

Fax 020 7276 0208

E-mail gus.odonnell@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

Web www.cabinet-office.gov.uk

From the Private Secretary

Christopher Ames
31 Upper Court Road
Epsom
KT19 8RE

25 April 2007

Dear Mr Ames,

I am replying to your letter dated 18 April 2007 about issues arising from a Freedom of Information request you made to the Cabinet Office in 23 January 2006. You suggest that the Cabinet Office may have 'lost' classified intelligence assessments made by the Cabinet office in relation to the ability of Iraq to produce nuclear weapons. I can assure you that all records relating to the production of the Government's dossier on Iraqi WMD in September 2002 and the subsequent inquiries are retained by the Cabinet Office. As for the statements made to the House of Commons by the Prime Minister on these issues, the Hutton Inquiry, the Butler Review and the Intelligence and Security Committee Report on Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction have covered these matters exhaustively and I have nothing to add to their findings.

You are already aware that the handling of the information request you originally made to Cabinet Office (ref FOI240450) is being investigated by the Information Commissioner under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You will be pleased to know that my officials wrote to the Information Commissioner on 2 April informing him that in this case the Cabinet Office was waiving its reliance upon the exemption in section 12 of the Act in this case. We are currently searching our records and will provide a substantive response to your original request by 26 April 2007, even though to do so will take us beyond the appropriate cost limit.

I am copying this letter to the Information Commissioner.

Gus O'Donnell
Ciaran Martin

Ciaran Martin
Principal Private Secretary

