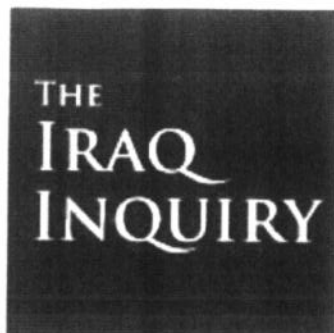


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Committee: Sir John Chilcot (Chair), Sir John Gorton (Vice-Chair), Sir Martin Gilbert, Sir Roderic Lyne, Baroness Warsby (President)

Heads of Iraq Inquiry Departmental Liaison Units

8 April 2011

Dear Colleagues,

IRAQ INQUIRY – ROLE OF CIVILIANS IN IRAQ

The Inquiry is now drafting its report and one of the issues it will wish to cover is the deployment and role of civilian personnel and the associated lessons. We are, however, experiencing significant difficulties in putting together a coherent picture of the number of personnel deployed over time, their roles, and which departments deployed or managed them. We have a very small number of documents which provide a snapshot of numbers deployed and we have also reviewed the material which departments provided to help with preparations for the civilian outreach event hosted by the Inquiry in June 2010. That has led us to conclude that there are significant gaps. For instance, documents suggest that in May 2003, 24 civilians were deployed, but only 7 are identified on the database provided by departments. Similarly, in September 2003 the figures are 100:25; and in May 2004, 115:51. I attach a table which shows the information provided by departments for the civilian outreach event.

The Inquiry has, therefore, concluded that it needs to make a further attempt to obtain better information. I should, therefore, be grateful if departments could provide the information to populate the attached table. It would be helpful if the categories could be expanded, when appropriate, to show the originating departments for civil servants, where that is known; and similarly if the data for consultants could identify the employing department. If staff are double-hatted and shared between elements of the table, eg the Consulate and PRT in Basra, it would be useful to provide an explanatory footnote. Where the "other" categories are used, again it would be helpful if explanatory footnotes could be provided. If we have failed to identify a category of deployed civilians, please tell us.

It would be helpful if departments could agree to co-ordinate inputs. For instance, I would expect the FCO to lead in providing information about the size and component parts of the British Embassy in Baghdad and the Consulates in Basra and Erbil, even where staff were provided by other departments, to avoid double counting. Similarly, I would hope that DFID would be able to lead in co-ordinating data for the PRT; and MOD for deployments with British forces. The CPA may be more difficult, but I should be grateful if the FCO would consider pulling the inputs together, including identifying personnel deployed by departments which do not have an Iraq Inquiry liaison point, eg DOH. Similarly, I would hope that it would be possible for the FCO provide information about staff seconded from the devolved administrations and to lead on providing police numbers, including those from Scotland.

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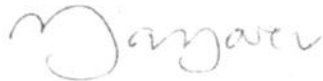
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The table asks for information on a quarterly basis. If that is not possible, it would be helpful if information could be provided as fully as possible, eg if a department only holds information for other months or at infrequent intervals it is put into the nearest appropriate cell and footnoted accordingly.

From the information held already by the Inquiry, this may not be an entirely straightforward exercise; but the degree to which departments hold this information will itself be important to the Inquiry.

I should be grateful for replies no later than Thursday 5 May. If departments have queries, or think that a meeting would be useful, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,



MARGARET ALDRED

Secretary to the Iraq Inquiry

Sent to:

Brian Williams	CO
Jonathan Duke-Evans	MOD
Patrick Lamb	FCO
Mary Hunt	DFID
Tim McDonnell	HMT
Sarah Severn	HO
Hazel Hector	UKTI
Mark Larmour	NIO
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