

**From:** Vaughan Lowe  
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Dear Sir John,

I am grateful for the opportunity to address comments to the Inquiry.

I do not wish to add to the material already before the Inquiry concerning the legality of the invasion of Iraq, beyond observing that there is an important question as to how clear a Government needs to be about the legal position before taking unilateral action involving the use of armed force in respect of a situation of which the Security Council is seized.

The one point that I do wish to make is that I think it is inappropriate for the Attorney General both to provide confidential legal advice to a Government and to make the Parliamentary statement of the position adopted by the Government in the light of that advice. The Attorney should advise; the Government should decide; and the responsible Minister should announce the decision.

I appreciate that these comments are on the periphery of the questions raised in your announcement of 2 June 2010, and hope that my response does not abuse your invitation.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Lowe QC

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