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Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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4 November 2013

Dear Prime Minister

IRAQ INQUIRY: MAXWELLISATION

When I last wrote to you on 15 July this year, I said that at the end of October the Inquiry would send the detail of its provisional criticisms to relevant individuals, so beginning the next phase of the 'Maxwellisation' process. As I explained, our ability to do so was dependent on the satisfactory completion of discussions between the Inquiry and the Government on disclosure of material that the Inquiry wishes to include in its report or publish alongside it.

I also stated, as I had indicated in my letter of 13 July 2012, that discussions had begun between the Inquiry and Sir Jeremy Heywood on the most difficult categories of material. Indeed, beginning in June this year the Inquiry has submitted ten requests covering some 200 Cabinet-level discussions, 25 Notes from Mr Blair to President Bush and more than 130 records of conversations between either Mr Blair or Mr Brown and President Bush. The Inquiry Secretariat has responded to a number of Cabinet Office questions on those requests.

I am grateful for all of the work done by the Cabinet Office and other departmental teams since then to deal with the disclosure of the many documents used by the Inquiry which do not fall into these categories. It is regrettable that the Government and the Inquiry have not reached a final position on the disclosure of these more difficult categories of document.

I and my colleagues have agreed that the Inquiry should not issue those provisional criticisms without a clear understanding of what supporting evidence will be agreed for publication.

The Inquiry has therefore contacted the relevant individuals to notify them that the Maxwellisation timetable has been delayed and that we are not yet able to confirm when we will be in a position to provide them with the material they expect.

I should like to place a copy of this letter on the Inquiry's website on Tuesday morning.

Yours sincerely

Sir John Chilcot