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## Lord Hutton responds to media reaction to the Hutton Report

Lord Hutton has written an article published by Sweet & Maxwell, the leading legal publisher, in the Winter issue of the journal "Public Law" published on 18 October 2006. The article, which is available online at [www.sweetandmaxwell.co.uk/Lord\\_Hutton\\_Article.pdf](http://www.sweetandmaxwell.co.uk/Lord_Hutton_Article.pdf), is his first response to the criticisms of the Hutton Report that have been made since its publication in January 2004.

In the article he states:

- ∞ "If all the evidence given at my inquiry was fairly taken into account, there was no reasonable basis on which my conclusion that the government did not know that the 45 minutes claim was wrong and had not ordered the dossier to be sexed up could be described as a whitewash of the government." This conclusion was confirmed by the report of Lord Butler's Committee which refers to "allegations that the intelligence in the September dossier had knowingly been embellished, and hence over the good faith of the Government" and then continues: "Lord Hutton dismissed these allegations. We should record that we, too, have seen no evidence which would support any such allegations."
- ∞ "If I had delivered a report highly critical of the government in terms which conformed to the hopes of some commentators I have no doubt that it would have received much praise. However, in reality, if I had written such a report I would have been failing in one of the cardinal duties of a judge conducting an inquiry into a highly controversial matter which gives rise to intense public interest and debate. That duty is to decide fairly the relevant issues arising under the terms of reference having regard to all the evidence and not to be swayed by pressure from newspapers and commentators or from any other quarter."

Lord Hutton goes on to explain and that in his view the criticisms directed at the report failed to take into proper account his terms of reference and also failed to take into account all of the evidence which had been presented, concentrating instead only on those parts of the evidence which, viewed in isolation and apart from the surrounding circumstances, could be regarded as harmful to the Government. Lord Hutton also says that he felt that he would have been failing in his duty if he had refused to conduct the inquiry.

ENDS

**Notes to editors:**

Lord Hutton will not be giving interviews.

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The academic journal "Public Law" is published four times a year and is read by legal academics, practitioners and judges in the UK and overseas.

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