

GARETH WILLIAMS

INQUEST TO BE SECRET

TRIBUNAL

I've been blogging about British efforts to expand the use of closed material proceedings so it won't reveal embarrassing details about its cooperation in American torture in the future.

Which makes it interesting that Britain's Foreign Secretary, William Hague, has ordered that the inquest into the death of GCHQ scientist Gareth Williams will be secret. Williams is the GCHQ-on-loan-to-MI6 sometimes-on-loan-to-NSA scientist whose body was found in a gym duffel in his flat a few years ago.

All sorts of cover stories have been leaked about his death: that it was some sort of gay bondage gone bad, that the Russian mafia took him out.

I've been most intrigued by the detail that Williams was working with NSA at the time when the US blew up the British planes investigation.

Whatever the reason, we're not likely to find out, at least not immediately, because of the secrecy surrounding the inquest.

I'm not surprised the Brits don't want their spy stories told in public, mind you.