

JMKR)

Stephen Mitchell

From: Kevin Marsh
Sent: 27 June 2003 04:24 PM
To: Stephen Mitchell
Subject: From here

Some thoughts . clearly I have to talk to AG early next week. I hope that by then my worst fears - based on what I'm hearing from the spooks this afternoon - aren't realised. Assuming not, the guts of what I would say are:

- This story was a good piece of investigative journalism, marred by flawed reporting - our biggest millstone has been his loose use of language and lack of judgement in some of his phraseology
- It was marred also by the quantity of writing for other outlets that varied what was said or was loose with the terms of the story
- That it is in many ways a result of the loose and in some ways distant relationship he's been allowed to have with *Today*

I will propose that we change that.

- That he works substantially in the office
- That he comes in to TVC to put his pieces together and to file (he usually files from home)
- That all his proposed stories are discussed with me, in detail as early as possible in the process - face to face if possible
- That anonymous sources pass an explicit credibility test with me
- That his material is filed/assembled in time to be heard by me or a senior Ass Ed in time to make changes
- That we agree on a script or on core elements of a script that he does not subsequently vary
- That he stops writing for non-BBC outlets ?? OR
- That all writing for non-BBC outlets is seen 24 hours in advance of copy time and before it is filed by two editors/managers - if changes are necessary, the changed copy is seen, again before being filed ??

Does this sound too harsh ?? Thoughts ?? I'd like anything I say to him to be consistent with anything anyone else above me in the hierarchy .

K

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