

TRANSCRIPT

Programme(s)

The Today Programme Radio 4

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Subject / interviewee

Defence of the Iraq dossiers – Ben Bradshaw

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John Humphreys: *Let me turn to the minister to whom Sir Bernard referred and that is Ben Bradshaw, Minister of State now at the Department of the Environment, good morning to you.*

Ben Bradshaw: Morning John.

JH: *And, and of course formerly of this programme, a journalist yourself.*

BB: That's right.

JH: *Is that why you were put up to do this interview?*

BB: I wasn't put up I, I read ..

JH: *Well I said put up you know what I mean why you were asked to do the interview?*

BB: ... you, you asked me to come on the programme and I, I having read Richard Sambrook's so-called response yesterday was so shocked by it and worried about its implications for the BBC's integrity that I offered myself to come on as someone who's spent most of my working life working for the BBC including latterly for your sister programme the World at One for your current editor Kevin Marsh for, for whom I have the highest regard But I think, I think ...

JH: *Yes only, only saying put up because it was the Labour Party who offered you to us as it were. So but any way there we are that's, that's ...*

BB: yes but I, I put myself up to them

JH: *... fine yes, okay well thanks for doing that good to talk to you. Why did Mr Campbell do what he did last night and go on Channel Four, it's a pretty unusual thing to do isn't it?*

BB: It is unusual and I think it reflects the depth of anger felt not just by Alastair but by the Prime Minister and the top of Government and including the top of the intelligence services. And what you avoided to do in your interview with Bernard Ingham is examine the central and original allegation that you made on this programme which is that the Government inserted information in to the dossier against the wishes of the intelligence services knowing it to be false That allegation has not been defended in Richard Sambrook's letter, he has failed to answer a single of the central and very simple questions posed by Alastair Campbell and I can hardly think of a more serious allegation made against a Government, accusing a Government of lying based on a single anonymous source, against BBC producer guidelines, and as I understand it without even trying to check it's veracity by putting a call in to Number 10 first.

JH: *Well as you know the allegation was made not by the BBC but by a source, a senior official involved in the compilation of the dossier The BBC certainly does stand by that, Andrew Gilligan made it clear that according to his source the forty*

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