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Hopkins surprised as Cryer opposes inquiry into Iraq war

Kris Hopkins, the Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Keighley and Ilkley, has said he is surprised and disappointed at local Labour MP Ann Cryer's decision to oppose an independent inquiry into the war in Iraq.

Cllr Hopkins was joined in his condemnation by Shadow Foreign Secretary William Hague who said he believed Mrs Cryer's stance had done her constituents "a great disservice."

Earlier this week Mrs Cryer joined the vast majority of Labour MPs in the House of Commons in voting against such an inquiry following a debate instigated by the Conservatives.

Kris Hopkins commented:

"In my view, Ann Cryer has betrayed her constituents by choosing to block what I believe was a very necessary examination of how the Labour Government behaved in relation to Iraq.

"As a former soldier myself, I am fully aware of the need to support our troops in the field.

"However, given how many British soldiers have died in Iraq since the conflict began, I feel it equally important that lessons are learnt as soon as is practically possible.

"Even Gordon Brown, during his visit to Baghdad this week, conceded that lessons needed to be learnt.

"A properly constituted inquiry would have provided the perfect forum for this to happen.

"I opposed the war from the outset and make no apologies for doing so.

"However, we must now prepare to move on and we can only really do this by getting to the truth of how and why certain decisions were made by the Government.

"The voters of Keighley also want to know the truth and they, like me, will be very surprised and disappointed that their Member of Parliament does not believe that they should have the truth."

William Hague, who also chairs the Northern Board of the Conservative Party, added:

"This Government and future Governments need to learn the lessons of Iraq and the country needs to be assured that they will have done so.

"Labour MPs including Ann Cryer, who voted to oppose the establishment in principle of this inquiry, have done their constituents a great disservice."

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