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Hopkins condemns “fix” over Iraq war inquiry

Keighley and Ilkley Conservative Parliamentary candidate Kris Hopkins has criticised the Government’s decision to delay the publication of the Iraq war inquiry report until after the General Election.

Cllr Hopkins said he believed the inquiry, announced by Gordon Brown in a statement to MPs earlier today, “already has the appearance of a political fix” given that its hearings are to be held in private and the membership has been “handpicked by the Labour Government.”

He commented:

“The families of the many soldiers who died in Iraq have waited a long time for this moment but, already, it has the obvious appearance of a political fix.

“With due respect to the membership of the inquiry - handpicked by the Labour Government - they are essentially ‘Establishment’ figures who would not naturally wish to rock the boat.

“The vast majority of evidence should, in my view, be heard in public rather than in private.

“And the work should get under way now, not several months from now.

“Sending our troops to war in Iraq was probably the biggest mistake made by this Government and people have a right to know the truth.

“It is clear that the planned publication of the inquiry’s report has been timed to avoid discomfort for the Labour Party in advance of the General Election.

“As ever with Gordon Brown, it is party politics first, country second.”

ENDS