

E-mail sent to supporters of Tim Congdon's bid for the leadership of the UK Independence Party, on 14th October 2010

This e-mail is sent to you because I have been informed - or have good reason to believe - that you are a supporter of my bid to become leader of UKIP. **If you do not want to receive e-mails from me, perhaps you would let me know. The leadership campaign rules are intended to encourage discussion and debate, but also to prevent spamming.**

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Dear friends and supporters,

There will be two e-mails today, first a statement from Gerard Batten and I on a recent unfortunate incident related to the BBC television programme, *Question Time*, and a more positive second one (to be sent later) announcing a teleconference on Monday, 18th October, which will enable party members to direct questions to Gerard, Steve Allison and myself.

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A statement from Tim Congdon and Gerard Batten on today's *Question Time* incident

Tim Congdon and Gerard Batten have agreed the following statement on today's *Question Time* incident:

"The UK Independence Party represents a noble and vital cause. Disagreements between senior figures in the party are inevitable, but – as far as possible – they should be settled quietly, amicably and out of the public eye.

In our opinion the UK Independence Party should

- have a number of spokespersons able and ready to appear on television, including the *Question Time* programme, and
- have discussions inside the party, under the direction of the Party Leader, about how particular individuals are to be "allocated" to particular media slots.

Nigel Farage was invited by the BBC to participate in tonight's *Question Time* episode. Mr. Farage accepted the invitation, even though the UK Independence Party had (and still has) a leadership election. Some people believe that participation on *Question Time* might have given him an advantage over the other candidates, including one of the authors of this statement (i.e., Tim Congdon).

We think Mr. Farage was wrong to accept the invitation without consulting the other candidates. However, once his participation had been agreed with the BBC, a priority was to maintain party unity and avoid public disagreement. We are therefore dismayed that another leadership candidate, David Campbell-Bannerman, decided to lodge a

protest with the BBC about Mr. Farage's *Question Time* appearance. This caused the BBC to withdraw its invitation.

This is an unfortunate incident at a critical time for the party. **Tim Congdon has said in his hustings addresses that "the future of a political party cannot be – and must not be – settled by the performance of one man on one television programme"**. That remains one lesson from today's incident."

Tim Congdon CBE – Leadership candidate in the 2010 UKIP leadership election

Gerard Batten MEP – 2nd in the 2009 UKIP leadership election and to be appointed Deputy Leader in the event that Tim Congdon is elected to the leadership

14th October, 2010

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You are free to circulate this message more widely to other party members.

With best wishes

Tim Congdon