

# UK Member of Parliament and research team use FT Professional to be better informed

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## The challenge

Exeter MP Ben Bradshaw needs to stay abreast of politics, public policy and foreign affairs. His research team require reliable and impartial resources to provide Ben with accurate information.

## The solution

With objective political reporting, the FT provides authoritative information on foreign affairs, UK domestic policy and Whitehall developments, as well as up-to-date global news and insightful analysis.

## The benefits

By being well-informed, Ben can serve his constituents and perform effectively in Parliament. His research team can brief him accurately on both broader trends and on specific issues relevant to his local constituents.



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**BEN BRADSHAW**  
MP FOR EXETER

## Working for Exeter and the UK

In Parliament since 1997, Ben Bradshaw was a Minister in the Labour government from 2001 until 2010. He held a number of ministerial posts including health, foreign affairs, environment, finally becoming Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

As a Labour MP for Exeter, Ben's responsibilities include addressing his constituents' problems, drafting parliamentary questions and holding Government to account. He also sits on a Select Committee that helps to influence policy on culture media and sport. As a result, he needs a thorough knowledge of British domestic policy, foreign affairs, the European Union and Whitehall developments; he also needs a thorough grasp of the implications for the UK as a whole and also for his Exeter constituents.

Murray McKirdle is Ben's Parliamentary Researcher. He and the rest of Ben's team carry out research into local, regional, national and international issues as required, ensuring Ben is aware of any relevant matters for his constituency and parliamentary work.

## Staying informed with the FT

"I moved from the Guardian and Times to the FT when I was a Minister in the Foreign Office, because the FT's foreign coverage was much better," says Ben. "I stayed with it because I still felt that if I read one paper a day the FT would leave me the best-informed on politics and public policy" and says "the FT often provided quicker, more insightful analysis than Government briefings."

"The reliable, detailed and up-to-date reporting helps ensure I have a good idea what both the Government and my own party are doing, which helps me draft responses to constituents. The good coverage of foreign affairs also helps me respond to constituents on issues such as the EU, or the current issues in the Middle East and Ukraine, with an informed position." He also cites the good reporting of policy which helps him "draft questions in Parliament and challenge the Government where I think their policy is flawed."

At home, Ben subscribes to the Financial Times newspaper. "I believe it's the only remaining newspaper of record within this country... the only newspaper of quality. It's the only daily newspaper that my household receives." Ben also has an FT.com subscription



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The FT is a good source of information to keep up-to-date with any news or updates that might affect Ben's constituency. It provides an insightful view on world affairs that often have a direct and personal impact on the lives of Exeter residents.

**MURRAY MCKIRDLE**  
PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCHER FOR BEN BRADSHAW



provided by work, giving him access on multiple devices including desktop, iPad and iPhone. This is also available to his Parliamentary Researcher Murray McKirdle and the rest of the team.

For Murray, the FT keeps him and the team up to date with news that might affect Ben's constituency, so they can follow up on those matters. "It's a good source for following current affairs, for instance when looking at general economic trends on the national stage," he explains, "but it also has great clarity in burrowing down into more relevant figures for the South West region. It provides an insightful view on world affairs that often have a direct and personal impact on Exeter residents' lives – such as seeking refuge for relatives from war-torn countries." Another example he gives is providing Ben with background information for the MP's meeting with concerned landlords in his constituency.

## The benefits of an FT Professional Subscription

For politicians, the FT's rigorous editorial independence is useful because it produces unbiased coverage. In Ben Bradshaw's words, "It doesn't feed me a political line." With journalists based in 50 cities across the world, it can also offer strong local expertise combined with a uniquely global perspective that puts national news in an international context.

This content helps to fulfil Ben and his team's need for comprehensive yet insightful news and analysis of British and world events.

### The MP and his team can draw on a wide range of useful print and digital content, including:

- Personalised email alerts, updating them on the latest developments in their focus areas

- FT Special Reports for a deeper understanding of individual cities, regions and countries
- Accurate and authoritative UK and international news, helping them to save time on fact-checking and additional research
- Guest editorial contributions by political heavyweights from Bill Clinton to Gordon Brown
- Insights from top political and foreign affairs journalists such as Gideon Rachman, Megan Murphy, Philip Stephens and Janan Ganesh
- Online FT article archive, spanning the last 11 years
- Interactive maps and timelines

## Impartial reporting and valuable insights

For Ben, the main benefits to him and his constituency are that he is "probably better-informed as a result. The FT has a record of covering the English regions, politics and economics in depth, in a way that other newspapers don't do any more."

Ben cites the "excellent" recent series on Britain's housing crisis, including regional statistics, which he found very useful. The coverage and analysis of Middle East affairs has also helped him draft response to the many constituents who have contacted him about the issue.

This high-quality coverage keeps Ben informed and up to date, helping him to serve his constituents well and perform effectively in Parliament, while his research team can brief him accurately on both broader trends and on specific issues relevant to his local constituents.



The FT is the only newspaper of quality that doesn't feed me a political line.

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