

Response from a Seven spokesperson:

There was nothing ‘deceitful’ in the broadcast. The tapes were in total context and spoke for themselves. It was said. It was in the public interest to be heard. It was serious. Nothing false. Nothing to apologise for.

Seven is surprised at Lisa Wilkinson’s outrage at the Seven Spotlight story and cannot understand why she would not regard it as legitimate coverage of a news story of wide interest.

Seven denied that the material put to air was obtained improperly from materials subpoenaed in the criminal trial or otherwise prohibited.

Extracts of the audio recording featuring Lisa Wilkinson which were broadcast as part of the Spotlight program on Bruce Lehrmann speak for themselves. They form a crucial part of the timeline of allegations made by Brittany Higgins and first broadcast in an interview with Ms Wilkinson on Network Ten. That interview, the reaction to it and the police investigation, criminal trial and Board of Inquiry which followed it, have dominated public and political debate since the broadcast. As a journalist, it is difficult to believe that Ms Wilkinson would suggest that the background to those events is not a proper subject of investigation and public interest reporting.

Seven does not understand that Ms Wilkinson denies having spoken the words attributed to her in the audio recording or the context in which they were spoken. Seven is aware that Ms Wilkinson and Ten have apologised for certain things captured on the audio recordings but note that those matters were not raised in the Spotlight program. In any event, no specific comment is made during the Spotlight program impugning Ms Wilkinson’s “professionalism as a journalist” or criticises her as alleged in her solicitors complaint.