

OFCOM COMPLAINT - GB News's Patrick Christys Tonight - 05 April 2024

Programme details

Programme title: Patrick Christys Tonight

Date of broadcast: 05 April 2024

Time of broadcast (24 hour clock): 22.21

Channel / station*: GB News

Your complaint

Subject: (please use 255 characters or fewer)

GB News's Patrick Christys Tonight programme on 5 April 2024 breached Ofcom's broadcasting rules 2.3 and 5.1 — due to harmful discussion around 'transgenderism' and climate change as a 'social mania'

Description: (please use 1500 characters or fewer)

The host interviewed guest Lionel Shriver, who said that "transgenderism" and climate change are an "ideological cult" and "social mania" that has "seized hold of our entire society". These terms are derogatory and the claims are not based on factual accuracy.

GB News broke **Rule 2.3**, by breaching accepted standards in making offensive and harmful remarks. According to Rule 2.3, "offensive material (including offensive language) must be justified by the context." In this instance, the remarks fail to meet this standard: the offensive terms were employed within the context of a news segment, where the guest was portrayed as an authoritative figure describing a marginalised community. The Cambridge Dictionary states that the term 'transgenderism' "is now considered offensive by many people."

GB News also broke **Rule 5.1**, by failing to report with due accuracy and impartiality. The guest labelled climate change a "social mania" — saying that you can't "disagree with the premise of climate change or you are socially ostracised", suggesting that the scientific consensus on climate change was "groupthink". Climate change is backed by well-established scientific evidence supporting its severity and urgency. Presenting climate change as a 'mania' is a deeply inaccurate assertion to be made on a news programme. Further, the host failed to provide any opposing viewpoints or clarification on the inaccurate information and offensive language, thereby violating the impartiality rule.