

# OFCOM COMPLAINT - GB News's The Neil Oliver Show - 12 May 2024

## Programme details

Programme title: The Neil Oliver Show

Date of broadcast: 12 May 2024

Time of broadcast (24 hour clock): 18:13

Channel / station\*: GB News

## Your complaint

### Subject:

GB News's The Neil Oliver Show breached Rule 2.1 and 5.1 in making potentially harmful and inaccurate statements relating to the 'green agenda' and the COVID-19 pandemic

### Description:

On 12 May 2024, the GB News presenter Neil Oliver made a series of incorrect statements in his opening monologue, as he explicitly referenced and repeated numerous conspiracy theories relating to climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

**In relation to climate change**, Oliver said that the following posed an "existential threat", which was now bigger than ever: "15-minute ghettos, the end of meat on our plates, the end of private ownership of cars and god knows who else." His monologue then continued to call the "green agenda, agenda 2030" the "daddy of all hoaxes". The magnitude of these 'threats' is vastly exaggerated by Oliver, and are far from being "existential" – and moreover, are not what is stated in United Nations '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' (the action plan that Oliver appears to be referencing). For these reasons, **GB News broke Rule 5.1 by failing to report with due accuracy and due impartiality.**

**In relation to the COVID-19 pandemic**, Oliver referred to this as the "scamdemic" – alleging it was "nothing more than farcical testing, a pandemic of jobs [and] while everyone was distracted", allowed the World Health Organisation to "outright nation states". This statement, provided without evidence, contextualisation or challenge, is both inaccurate and misleading with regards to the virus and public policies. As a result, Oliver's claims have the potential to impact viewer's decisions about their health, which makes **the comments potentially harmful and in breach of Rule 2.1.**