

OFCOM COMPLAINT - The Saturday Five on GB News - 25 May 2024

Programme details

Programme title: The Saturday Five

Date of broadcast: 25 May 2024

Time of broadcast (24 hour clock): 19.26

Channel / station*: GB News

Your complaint

Subject:

GB News's The Saturday Five breached Ofcom rule 5.7 in falsely stating the death of pensioner Barbara Bolton was a 'direct result' of net zero policies.

Description:

On 25 May 2024, GB News host Darren Grimes hosted The Saturday Five where he made the inaccurate claim that Barbara Bolton died as a "direct result" of net zero programs. Bolton was a pensioner who sadly died in January 2023 of hypothermia after not being able to afford to heat her home. About Bolton's death, Grimes said: "...she was so scared of putting the heating on, of you know, firing up that comfy boiler because she was so scared of the energy bill that she would receive. That I think is as a direct consequence of the pursuit of net zero."

It is well documented, including in statements by the UK Government, that rises in energy prices at that time were a direct result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. When European countries, including the UK, ceased purchasing Russian oil and gas the global supply versus demand deficit rapidly inflated energy prices. This was compounded by the UK's over-reliance on gas boilers to heat homes.

As well as being distasteful and opportunistic, Grime's comments are in breach of Ofcom rule 5.7, which states that "Views and facts must not be misrepresented. Views must also be presented with due weight over appropriate timeframes." Grimes falsely presented Bolton's death as a direct result of net zero policies, and misrepresented the actual causes of inflated energy prices in January 2023.