

OFCOM COMPLAINT - Headliners on GB News - 16th June 2024

Programme details

Programme title: Headliners

Date of broadcast: 16 June 2024

Time of broadcast (24 hour clock): 23:07

Channel / station*: GB News

Your complaint

Subject:

GB News' Headliners breached Ofcom rule 5.1 and 5.7 by giving voice to more misinformation about climate science, with no weight given to voices arguing for the existence of human-made climate change.

Description:

On 16 June 2024, Lewis Schaffer on GB News' Headliners show made inaccurate and highly contestable claims about climate change which were not challenged by the host or other guests — therefore violating Ofcom rules 5.1 and 5.7. Schaffer's comment echoed his similar climate denial from two days prior, as well as the week before.

Schaffer claimed, "the truth is climate change is not a real thing" and that "we've been lied to" about climate change. He also refers to "Net Zero of the climate change thing" as "bull" [bullshit]. Schaffer also engaged in COVID-19 denial, labelling it "this COVID lie scam thing".

These claims are in violation of Ofcom rules 5.1 and 5.7, requiring "due accuracy" and the avoidance of misrepresenting facts. Climate change and COVID-19 are both scientific realities. Schaffer does not even attempt to prove his claims by citing any sources.

Schaffer's views left unchallenged, violating Ofcom rule requirements around "impartiality" and giving "due weight" to opposing views. Far from challenging Schaffer's claims, the host instead asked: "Lewis, do you think the argument for climate change doesn't really work in the UK because this is a terminally cold and rainy nation? I mean I just saw it in scientific experts apparently saying we had the hottest May on record. Have they been outside?". At best, this comment casts further doubt on the credibility of climate scientists, while doing nothing to counter or balance Schaffer's position.