

OFCOM COMPLAINT - Britain's Newsroom on GB News - 25 July 2024

Programme details

Programme title: Britain's Newsroom

Date of broadcast: 25 July 2024

Time of broadcast (24 hour clock): 11:16

Channel / station*: GB News

Your complaint

Subject: GB News hosts Ben Leo and Miriam Cates made unproven allegations that what they partisanly call a “deranged march” to Net Zero will make us “colder” and “poorer”. Their claims violated Ofcom rules 5.1, 5.5 and 5.7 relating to accuracy and impartiality.

Description: On 25th July 2024, GB News hosts Ben Leo and Miriam Cates, in a conversation with the leader of the Climate Party Ed Gemmell, made a series of unfounded and unbalanced claims about Net Zero.

Leo alleged that the “march to Net Zero” will “completely tear up a lot of people’s lives, costing jobs, costing money” and “arguably it’s going to cause us so much harm”. Miriam Cates, also a GB News host, claimed that “the pursuit of Net Zero by 2030 absolutely will make us poor” due to it being “expensive”, “undeliverable” and “just not possible”. Finally Leo claimed that “lots of people” see it as a “deranged march to Net Zero” and claimed that it will make us “colder” and “poorer”.

Leo and Cates’ claims against Net Zero, which are in line with Leo’s regular climate scepticism and denigration of climate scientists on GB News, violated their requirements of impartiality (rule 5.1), including on public policy (rule 5.5). The lack of substantiation on their claims, which were often presented as fact as opposed to opinion, is a violation of rules 5.1 and 5.7, which require “due accuracy” and the correct representation of facts.