

OFCOM COMPLAINT - Jacob Rees-Mogg's State of the Nation on GB News - 31 July 2024

Programme details

Programme title: Jacob Rees-Mogg's State of the Nation

Date of broadcast: 31 July 2024

Time of broadcast (24 hour clock): 20:41

Channel / station*: GB News

Your complaint

Subject: A GB News guest made serious allegations about the Energy Secretary and his policies without giving an opportunity to respond. Him and GB News host Jacob Rees-Mogg also minimised the impact of global warming without due weight to other views.

Description: On 31st July, guest Mutaz Ahmed from The Telegraph made contentious claims that unfairly portrayed green policies and minimised the impact of climate change.

Ahmed referred to Energy Secretary Ed Miliband as a "green fanatic" and "mad", and then clarified that he was referring to Miliband's "politics".

GB News host Jacob Rees-Mogg also minimised the impact of climate change by saying, "And the world isn't ending, is it? We've got a hot day today, but the world seems to be surviving this modest rise in temperature" and claimed "We're 1% of emissions, we make no difference". He also claimed that "a slightly warmer planet is not a complete disaster" and Ahmed claimed that "we also benefit from slightly higher temperatures".

Several of these claims were challenged by fellow guest Tessa Dunlop, however the weighting of viewpoints was skewed with Rees-Mogg and Ahmed both making unfair portrayals of the Energy Secretary and energy policy. Descriptions of Miliband as a "fanatic" and "mad" are a violation of Ofcom rule 7.1 forbidding "unfair treatment" and the lack of opportunity to respond to such allegations violated Ofcom rule 7.11. The unbalanced framing of government policy and of the severity of global warming is a violation of Ofcom rules 5.5 and 5.7 respectively. Both of which require balance and due weight to expressed viewpoints.