

OFCOM COMPLAINT - Saturday Night Showdown on GB News - 10 August 2024

Programme details

Programme title: Saturday Night Showdown

Date of broadcast: 10 August 2024

Time of broadcast (24 hour clock): 20:42

Channel / station*: GB News

Your complaint

Subject: GB News host Leo Kearsé referred to Just Stop Oil and the Labour Party as “posh, smelly, eco freaks”, which is in breach of Ofcom rules 5.1, 5.7 and 7.1.

Description: On 10th August 2024, GB News host Leo Kearsé, in a conversation about the environmental campaign group Just Stop Oil, referred to them as “posh, smelly, eco freaks”, and then added that the “description also fits the Labour Party”. This came shortly after Kearsé said that the “new Labour government has already pledged to meet Just Stop Oil’s demand to stop new drilling” for oil in the North Sea.

Kearsé’s comments about the the campaigning group and the Labour Party were not challenged and amount to a violation of Ofcom rules 5.1 and 5.7, which require coverage to be presented with “due impartiality”, accuracy and balance. Describing a political party as “posh, smelly, eco freaks” is a clear violation of these principles.

Additionally, Ofcom rule 7.1 requires that “broadcasters must avoid unjust or unfair treatment of individuals or organisations in programmes”. Kearsé’s comments, which disparage both the Labour Party and Just Stop Oil on a personal level rather than focusing on their policies or actions, amount to unfair treatment.