

OFCOM COMPLAINT - Saturday Night Showdown on GB News - 27 July 2024

Programme details

Programme title: Saturday Night Showdown

Date of broadcast: 27 July 2024

Time of broadcast (24 hour clock): 20:21

Channel / station*: GB News

Your complaint

Subject: GB News host Leo Kearsé cited a climate sceptic blog, and misrepresented the date of it, to cast doubt on whether we can “trust climate scientists”. This segment violated Ofcom rules 5.1 and 5.7 requiring impartiality and accuracy.

Description: On 27 July 2024, GB News host Leo Kearsé made a series of misleading and unscientific claims about the climate in an effort to discredit climate scientists.

First Kearsé cited bad weather in the UK in July as evidence to cast doubt that July 2024 was the “hottest July on record” and challenge more widely the trustworthiness of climate scientists. There are several issues with this: 1) climate scientists are not claiming that July 2024 was the hottest July on record, 2) instances of bad weather do not undermine a high **average** UK/global temperature over a whole month.

He also cited climate sceptic outlet The Daily Sceptic’s blog post and subsequent coverage by [Lincolnshire Live](#) calling into question a record temperature. These articles were written in November 2022 in reference to 19 July 2022, but Kearsé presented this coverage as current news. Kearsé used these examples to ask “can we trust climate scientists?” and to allege that they “could be gaslighting us”.

The fact that Kearsé is not only citing a climate sceptic blog in order to undermine climate science, but also misrepresenting the dates in question, is a clear breach of accuracy and impartiality required in Ofcom rules 5.1 and 5.7.