

OFCOM COMPLAINT - Lee Anderson's Real World on GB News - 6 September 2024

Programme details

Programme title: Lee Anderson's Real World

Date of broadcast: 6 September 2024

Time of broadcast (24 hour clock): 19:04

Channel / station*: GB News

Your complaint

Subject: Elected MP Lee Anderson used his platform as host on GB News to engage in, and platform, *ad hominem* attacks on Energy Secretary Ed Miliband and others in the Labour Government, in violation of Ofcom rules 5.1, 5.5, 5.7, and 7.1.

Description: On 6 September, GB News host and Reform UK MP Lee Anderson said that Ed Miliband "is probably the most dangerous man in the country at the moment politically", referring to his role as energy secretary. He also criticised the government's energy policy saying that "the lunatics have taken over the asylum". As a GB News host, Lee Anderson is expected to comply with due impartiality requirements set out in rules 5.1 and 5.5, however he used his platform to engage in *ad hominem* criticisms labelling politicians as "dangerous" and "lunatics". His role as an MP and news host makes this breach of impartiality even more concerning. His comments also violated Ofcom rule 7.1, which requires avoiding "unjust or unfair treatment of individuals or organisations in programmes".

GB News guest, Russel Quirk added that he thinks "Ed Miliband is not only the most dangerous man in Britain at the moment, he's a climate zealot" and "he's not thinking about the consequences of this ridiculous climate ideology thing". Quirk falsely claimed that the policy is "doing away with all oil and gas" by 2030 and alleged that the government's energy policies will leave "the city of Aberdeen completely wiped off the map" and "we're all going to be in sackcloths and, you know, riding horses again, just because Ed Miliband has this lunacy ideology". Quirk's comments similarly violated rules 5.1 and 5.5 for engaging in personal attacks on Miliband. His false claims about oil and gas, presented as fact, represent a violation of Ofcom rule 5.7, which requires that "facts must not be misrepresented".