

OFCOM COMPLAINT - Martin Daubney on GB News - 10 September 2024

Programme details

Programme title: Martin Daubney

Date of broadcast: 10 September 2024

Time of broadcast (24 hour clock): 16:15

Channel / station*: GB News

Your complaint

Subject: GB News host and Reform UK MP Lee Anderson made a series of harmful allegations about Energy Secretary Ed Miliband and about green policies, while being interviewed from the Houses of Parliament in a breaking news segment.

Description: On 10 September 2024, Lee Anderson (a host on GB News) was interviewed in his capacity as an MP inside the Houses of Parliament to discuss his vote against the removal of pensioner fuel allowance from many pensioners. In it, he described “foreign climate aid” as “nonsense” and later called for “that lunatic” Ed Miliband to be removed from office “because he's spaffing billions of pounds away with his GB energy, 8.5 billion, 11.6 billion on foreign climate aid. He's a lunatic. He's the most dangerous man in Britain”. He then claimed that the Energy Secretary is the “biggest threat to pensioners in this country since COVID-19”. This segment was a complete violation of Ofcom rules around impartiality, including in relation to government policy, as set out in Ofcom rules 5.1 and 5.5. The segment was published with the chyron “Breaking”, implying that it is a news segment, which puts it within scope of rule 5.1, which covers “news”. Describing a politician as a “lunatic”, “the most dangerous man in Britain” and “the biggest threat to pensioners in this country since COVID-19” is unfair, harmful and offensive to those who lost their lives to the pandemic, violating Ofcom rule 7.1 on unjust or unfair treatment of individuals.