

OFCOM COMPLAINT - Nana Akua on GB News - 24 August 2024

Programme details

Programme title: Nana Akua

Date of broadcast: 24 August 2024

Time of broadcast (24 hour clock): 16:25

Channel / station*: GB News

Your complaint

Subject: GB News violated impartiality rules by allowing a host to label the Energy Secretary a “green zealot”. It also allowed a GB News guest to allege that Net Zero will cause “almost armageddon” where people are left with “no heat” and “are going to die”.

Description: On 24 August 2024, GB News host Darren Grimes - filling in for Nana Akua - unfairly labelled Ed Miliband a “green zealot” in a discussion about the Labour Government’s energy policy. GB News guest Suzanne Evans, who has previously represented the Conservative Party and UKIP, then stated “This is like a new religion. You look at how religions operate and how top-down dictatorships they are, how they kind of pull the wool over their eyes, how they make statements of faith. And this is what Ed Miliband reminds me of when he starts talking about Net Zero. He’s a zealot, pure and simple”.

Evans then went on to claim that she foresees “almost an armageddon scenario” from the pursuit of Net Zero policies, where “we’re going to be left with no light, no heat” and “people are going to die because they’re cold”. GB News host Darren Grimes then interjected to falsely claim that “people have died” from Net Zero policies. This part of the discussion also lacked balance or evidence. It is an unfounded opinion to claim that Net Zero will cause armageddon and death and this requires balance in programming. Grimes’ claim that people have died from Net Zero policies is also unevidenced.

In this segment, GB News violated Ofcom rule 2.2, which requires that “portrayals of factual matters must not materially mislead the audience”. Grimes’ claims about Net Zero deaths is one example of misleading the audience. The general lack of balance and due impartiality in the segment is a violation of Ofcom rule 5.7.