

Notice of Sanction – Loveworld Limited

Type of case	Broadcast Standards
Outcome	Financial penalty of £125,000
Service	Loveworld Television Network
Date & time	1 December 2020, 17:00
Category	Harm and due accuracy in news
Summary	Ofcom imposed a sanction for serious, repeated and reckless breaches of Rules 2.1 and 5.1 of the Broadcasting Code for inaccurate and potentially harmful content in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic. Financial penalty of £125,000.

Introduction

Loveworld Television Network (“Loveworld”) is a religious channel broadcast on satellite in the UK. The licence for Loveworld is held by Loveworld Limited (“LL” or “the Licensee”).

The sanction related to *Global Day of Prayer*, a religious programme running from 17:00 on 1 December 2020 to 22:15 on 2 December 2020. Ofcom’s investigation found that the programme included statements claiming that the Coronavirus pandemic is a “planned” event created by the “deep state” for nefarious purposes, and that the vaccine is a “sinister” means of administering “nanochips” to control and harm people. Some statements claimed that “fraudulent” testing had been carried out to deceive the public about the existence of the virus and the scale of the pandemic. Other claims linked the cause of the Coronavirus to the rollout of 5G technology.

In [Ofcom’s Decision](#) published on 15 January 2021 in issue 418 of the Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin, Ofcom found that the programme had breached Rules 2.1 and 5.1 of the Code.

Rule 2.1: “Generally accepted standards must be applied to the content of television and radio services...so as to provide adequate protection for members of the public from the inclusion in such services of harmful and/or offensive material”.

Rule 5.1: “News, in whatever form, must be reported with due accuracy and presented with due impartiality”.

The 15 January 2021 Decision set out the specific reasons as to why Ofcom found the programme to be in breach of the Code. Given the seriousness of the breaches and in order to remedy the potential harm caused as quickly as possible, Ofcom directed the Licensee not to repeat the programme and to broadcast a statement of findings. Ofcom also said it would consider imposing a further sanction in addition to the direction.

In accordance with Ofcom’s penalty guidelines, Ofcom subsequently decided that it was appropriate and proportionate in the circumstances to impose a financial penalty of £125,000 in respect of these serious, repeated and reckless Code breaches (payable to HM Paymaster General).

The [full sanction Decision](#) was published on 31 March 2021.