



Note to Broadcasters

Update on politicians as newsreaders, interviewers or reporters

Withdrawal of decisions and discontinuation of investigations following the High Court Judgment: GB News v Ofcom

As set out in our previous Note to Broadcasters published on 3 March 2025¹, GB News challenged Ofcom's decisions on two editions of *Jacob Rees-Mogg's State of the Nation*² by way of judicial review. On 28 February 2025, the High Court handed down its Judgment³ and for reasons set out in it, the Court quashed these two decisions and remitted them to be reconsidered by Ofcom.

Ofcom has carefully considered the Court's Judgment and whether to reinvestigate the two programmes which were the subject of the quashed decisions. Ofcom has also considered its position in relation to all the other Rule 5.1/5.3 decisions relating to GB News programmes which were published on 18 March 2024 (three breach Decisions relating to *Esther & Phil* and one not pursued Decision relating to another episode of *Jacob Rees-Mogg*).

Ofcom has decided the following:

- Ofcom will not reinvestigate the two *Jacob Rees-Mogg* programmes;
- Ofcom has removed all of the above Decisions published on 18 March 2024 from GB News' compliance record; and
- Ofcom has withdrawn all of the above decisions from its Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin, adding a note to the relevant webpage explaining that these decisions were withdrawn following the Court's Judgment. The 18 March 2024 decisions can still be accessed for information⁴.

In light of the Judgment, Ofcom has also notified the relevant broadcasters that it has decided to discontinue the six open investigations involving politicians acting as presenters which were being investigated under Rules 5.1 and 5.3. These investigations are:

¹ [Note to Broadcasters - Politicians as newsreaders, interviewers and reporters](#)

² *Jacob Rees-Mogg's State of the Nation*, broadcast on 9 May 2023 and 13 June 2023

³ <https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2025/460.html>

⁴ https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/280835/Jacob-Rees-Mogg-State-of-the-Nation-2-May-2023.pdf; https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0029/280838/GB-News-Decisions-Five-Broadcast-Standards-Decisions.pdf

- *Jake Berry*, Talk TV, 12 December 2023;
- *Jake Berry*, Local TV, 12 December 2023;
- *Farage*, GB News, 17 January 2024;
- *David Lammy*, LBC 97.3FM, 29 March 2024;
- *Alex Phillips*, Talk, 22 May 2024; and,
- *Morning Glory*, Talk, 19 July 2024.

Review and consultation on proposed changes to the Broadcasting Code

Ofcom will now review Rule 5.3 and consult on proposed changes to restrict politicians from presenting news in any type of programme. We aim to move as quickly as possible with the publication of this consultation so broadcasters should expect it later in the spring. In the meantime, broadcasters should take account of the Interim Guidance⁵ which we set out in the previous note. The Section Five guidance has been amended to reflect this Interim Guidance.

If you have any queries on this issue, please send an email to ofcomstandardsteam@ofcom.org.uk

⁵ [Note to Broadcasters - Politicians as newsreaders, interviewers and reporters](#)