

## McGowan, D

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Your response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <p><b>Question 1:</b> Do you agree with the proposed amendments to Rule 5.3 of the Ofcom Broadcasting Code? Please give reasons for your answer.</p>                                                                    | <p>Confidential? – N</p> <p>I do agree with the change in the amendment, but I fear that the terms could be stretched and things that were once labelled as ‘news’ are then rebranded to ‘opinion’ or ‘debate’, in order to circumvent the rule.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p><b>Question 2:</b> Do you consider that Rule 5.3 of the Ofcom Broadcasting Code, if amended as proposed, will provide sufficient protection for audiences? Please give reasons for your answer.</p>                  | <p>Confidential? – N</p> <p>No, I do not. Similarly, to the answer above, I feel that the definitions are too easy to work around. In the example of GB News, Nigel Farage and Lee Anderson host their own shows but these will be labelled as non-news and therefore, not subject to impartiality rules. We all know that these two politicians, specifically, are not impartial.</p> <p>In the example of Talk TV, they are an internet only channel now. Is this subject to the same restrictions? The partner of a Reform MP is their International Editor and, I would argue, highly partisan and unable to provide due balance required. Will this be subject to the new amendment?</p>                           |
| <p><b>Question 3:</b> Do you agree with the assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed amendments to Rule 5.3 of the Ofcom Broadcasting Code (as set out in Annex 2)? Please give reasons for your answer.</p> | <p>Confidential? – N</p> <p>Impartiality and due impartiality are crucial, and I agree with the objectives as set out in Annex 2 but I worry that social media negates all due impartiality and balance.</p> <p>Using the example of GB News again, they may offer some balance within a programme by holding guests with differing views, but their social media output is extremely skewed in favour of the right and Reform specifically. Last month they tweeted over 700 times about Keir Starmer alone and 99% was negative. Whilst with Nigel Farage, their output was about 350 tweets, all positive.</p> <p>So while I do agree with these rules, they need to be extended to social media output as well.</p> |

| Question                                                                                                                             | Your response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>Question 4:</b> Do you agree with the proposed amendments to the Guidance on Rule 5.3?                                            | <p>Confidential? – N</p> <p>I do agree with these amendments as laid out but would wish for them to go further into the social media domain as well.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Question 5:</b> Do you have any other comments to make on the proposals, including in relation the scope of the proposed changes? | <p>Confidential? – N</p> <p>As set out in my answers above, I do agree with the broad terms and the new amendments, but I cannot stress enough, how worried I am about the unregulated space that is social media.</p> <p>All broadcasters use it but GB News and Talk TV weaponise it. They are very adept at creating content as clips from their shows and presenters, that provide a very unbalance and partial view on politics.</p> <p>I think, until this space is covered by your rulings, they will continue unabated and dominate the political sphere. GB News tweets over 100 times a day, mostly biased views. They are aware that it's an unregulated space.</p> |

**Please tell us how you came across about this consultation:**

- ☐ Email from Ofcom
- ☐ Saw it on social media
- ☐ Found it on Ofcom's website
- ☐ Found it on another website
- ☐ Heard about it on TV or radio
- ☐ Read about it in a newspaper or magazine
- ☐ Heard about it at an event
- ☒ Somebody told me or shared it with me
- ☐ Other (please specify)