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Ofcom
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By email only to: [REDACTED]

31 July 2026

Dear Ofcom,

GB News, Alex Armstrong Tonight, 5 July 2026, 9pm

1. We write to file a complaint about GB News's repetition of the hateful lie that the LGBTQ+ community is inclusive of paedophiles and bestiality, just nine months after GB News was found to have breached the Broadcasting Code for broadcasting a similar claim.
2. We urge Ofcom to sanction GB News over its failure to prevent such prejudice towards the LGBTQ+ community from being broadcast, to ensure that broadcasters understand that there must be consequences for such breaches of the Broadcasting Code.

The Programme

3. During the programme *Alex Armstrong Tonight* broadcast on GB News on 5 July 2026 at 9pm (the "**Programme**"), Alex Armstrong and his two guests, Caroline Farrow (UK and Ireland Campaigns Director at CitizenGO) and Matthew Hulbert (a former Liberal Democrat councillor), discussed "Is Pride Suitable For Families".
4. During the programme, Ms Farrow said:

"Now I think the problem is that pride, has not, is not about gay rights. It has become about celebrating every single sexuality that isn't heterosexuality including some very bizarre and unhealthy hints and quirks you know like furies and

bestiality and even they call themselves minor attracted people, you know, paedophiles. So, no, I do not think that Pride is something that's suitable for children, especially as it's about sex and sexuality." (emphasis added) ("**Ms Farrow's Statement**")

5. In response, Mr Hulbert said "*Not at all*", while shaking his head, following which, Mr Armstrong indicated that there was some truth in what Ms Farrow had said:

"Yeah, I mean, look, I obviously, look, I went to Pride last year and filmed it for GB News, actually. I would say the overwhelming amount of people at Pride were there for good reasons. I don't think it was full of pedophiles and everything like I'm sure there are nefarious people." (emphasis added) ("**Mr Armstrong's Statement**")

6. We refer to Ms Farrow and Mr Armstrong's statements together as "**the Statements**".

The dangerous falsity of the Statements

7. It is a longstanding, malignant falsehood that LGBTQ+ people are in some way linked to paedophilia and bestiality. Whether such harmful and offensive nonsense is expressed (i) directly as being a sexual impulse towards children or animals inherent in LGBTQ+ people, or (ii) as paedophiles or people who participate in bestiality being a formal or recognised sub-set of those within the LGBTQ+ community and embraced by anti-discrimination campaigns and societal inclusion initiatives of LGBTQ+ groups, including Pride, it is a dangerous lie.
8. Both of these meanings are present in the Statements and so conveyed to viewers, either separately or in combination.
9. Taking (i) first, that this unpleasant myth persists is a matter of general knowledge. Even so, the falsehood that LGBTQ+ people have a sexual impulse towards children has recently been the subject of judicial statement and condemnation. In *Blake v Fox* [2024] EWHC 146 (KB), a case in which the defendant Laurence Fox called the claimants Simon Blake and Colin Seymour, two gay men, paedophiles, Mrs Justice Collins Rice accepted evidence that:

"... one of the oldest, most pernicious and most stubbornly ineradicable falsities or myths of homophobia is that men whose sexuality is orientated to other men thereby exhibit a general 'proclivity' likely to comprehend a sexual orientation to children. The expression of both orientations was, of course, restricted by the criminal law as well as societal norms in this country until well within living

memory. That persistent homophobic trope of equivalence, or at least connection, between being a gay man and being a likely paedophile was the petrol sodden reputational rag onto which Mr Fox's incendiary tweets landed." [75]

10. Were it even needed to be said, therefore, there cannot be any doubt that this hateful prejudice towards homosexuals and its vilification of homosexuality as child-inclined predation is long-standing and, as the Judge accepted, pernicious. The repetition of this trope, and the similarly false trope of a link between the LGBTQ+ community with bestiality, is all the more dangerous and all the more offensive for its age and persistence in the minds of some. The same malignant falsehood that others in the LGBTQ+ community, such as transgender people, are in some way linked to paedophilia or bestiality is equally unjustified.
11. As to (ii), it is entirely false that any LGBTQ+ groups or movements include representation of paedophiles or people who participate in bestiality or include the rights and recognition of paedophiles or bestiality as any aim or as part of any aim, or that such criminality is celebrated during Pride.
12. No recognised definitions of LGBTQ+ include paedophiles or bestiality. The following formal definitions make that point definitively:
 1. GLAAD definition:
<https://glaad.org/reference/terms>
 2. Stonewall definition:
<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/list-lgbtq-terms>
 3. Human Rights Campaign definition:
<https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>
 4. Cambridge Dictionary definition:
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/lgbtq>
 5. Hull University Teaching Hospitals definition:
<https://www.hull.nhs.uk/lgbtqia/lgbtqia-glossary/>
13. So far as bigots and mischief-makers might have sought to suggest that the LGBTQ+ movement includes or tolerates paedophiles or bestiality, and there is little doubt that malicious trolls and others with malign agendas have done so online and elsewhere, this has been debunked many times. For example, news organisations and others have

fact-checked and researched the matter and rejected any such suggestion of inclusion of paedophiles:

1. Reuters:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/fact-check/the-progress-pride-flag-adds-representation-for-transgender-and-people-of-color-idUSL1N37S2DT/>

2. AFP:

<https://factcheck.afp.com/pride-flag-pedophiles-someone-created-one-no-one-waves-it>

3. USA Today:

<https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/07/30/fact-check-lgbtq-community-rejects-false-association-pedophiles/5462805002/>

4. Snopes:

<https://www.snopes.com/articles/464807/minor-attracted-persons-flag/>

The Broadcasting Code position

14. The Statements in our view are blatantly homophobic and transphobic and were made with the effect of promoting hate towards the LGBTQ+ community.
15. The average viewer of the Programme would understand Ms Farrow's Statement to have been an unambiguous statement of fact that Pride celebrates paedophiles and bestiality.
16. Meanwhile, the average viewer of the Programme would understand Mr Armstrong's Statement to have been a statement of an opinion that (a) the overwhelming majority of people at Pride are not paedophiles and do not participate in bestiality; and (b) Pride is not full of paedophiles, but he is sure that some paedophiles and people who participate in bestiality do attend Pride. Mr Armstrong's Statement therefore, in our view, had the effect of doubling down on Ms Farrow's Statement.
17. The Statements both perpetuate the oldest, most pernicious lies that have surrounded gay people for decades and are harmful and offensive to the LGBTQ+ community.
18. It follows that our submission is that the Statements were both offensive and harmful.
19. The relevant provisions of the Broadcasting Code are therefore Rules 2.1 (provision of protection for audiences from harmful and/or offensive material), 2.3 (necessary

justification for offensive content); and 3.2 (proscription of hate speech broadcast without justification).

Hate speech

20. We note the definition of hate speech given in Section Three of the Broadcasting Code:

Meaning of "hate speech"

All forms of expression which spread, incite, promote or justify hatred based on intolerance on the grounds of disability, ethnicity, social origin, gender, sex, gender reassignment, nationality, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, colour, genetic features, language, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth or age.

21. Generally, Ofcom highlights in its Guidance to Section Three that sexual orientation is a subject which can form a basis for hate speech:

"In the context of Rule 3.2, Ofcom consider examples of the types of issues that may form the basis of hate speech by one person or group against another to include, but are not limited to, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender reassignment, nationality, race, religion, or sexual orientation."

(Ofcom Guidance to Section Three, page 7)

22. Ofcom's definition of hate speech pointedly includes "*all forms of expression*", and rightly so.

23. It would be difficult, we suggest, to find a statement more likely to "*spread, incite, promote or justify hatred*" towards LGBTQ+ people – or any group that suffers prejudice – than one suggesting that they are likely to be paedophiles or participate in bestiality or are to be associated with paedophilia and bestiality.

24. As we have set out above, these false allegations about the LGBTQ+ community draw on an enduring falsehood still alive in the imaginations of some.

25. Mindful of these matters, the combining of the LGBTQ+ community and paedophilia and bestiality in the Statements are clear instances of hate speech and are significantly dangerous statements. The Statements were not ambiguous and Ms Farrow's Statement was clearly a deliberate and calculated assertion linking LGBTQ+ with paedophilia and bestiality.

26. Ofcom itself has had cause to comment on the particularly objectionable nature of this connection. In the course of recording a Broadcasting Code breach against the broadcaster SBN International Ofcom said:

"The language used by Jimmy Swaggart to describe gay people was highly offensive, referring to them, as "sex perverts", homosexuality as "filth", and a Gay Pride Event as "degenerate" and "obscene". The degree of offence was heightened significantly by the fact that in describing "filth", he grouped homosexuality with "paedophilia", and "incest".

(Bulletin 295)

27. Ofcom also said in a report concerning the radio service talkSPORT:

"We note the broadcaster's immediate and appropriate action in suspending Mr Mendoza. We nevertheless are very concerned that the presenter chose to make such a remark. To connect homosexuality to paedophilia is highly offensive."

(Bulletin 91)

28. And Ofcom said in a report concerning GB News, discussed further below:

"... conflating or associating some sexualities and/or gender identities with paedophilia, [is] a highly offensive and longstanding prejudicial trope."

(Bulletin 531)

29. In our submission *"conflating or associating some sexualities and/or gender identities with paedophilia"* and bestiality is also a matter of hate speech because the Statements constitute expressions that spread, incite, promote or justify hatred based on intolerance of LGBTQ+ people.

30. None of these three adjudications led to sanction. We address the issue of sanction in the present case below.

31. Rule 3.2 provides for contextual justification. The context of the Statements is discussed below, in relation to all three code rules we cite. But we say here that the Statements were not justified by the context, nor could they be. GB News entirely failed to protect members of the public.

Offence

32. There are numerous cases of homophobic speech that Ofcom has found in breach of the Broadcasting Code as offensive. The following is not exhaustive:

4. Bulletin 91: talkSPORT
5. Bulletin 135: Ujima Radio
6. Bulletin 189: Ujima Radio
7. Bulletin 207: Radio Asian Fever
8. Bulletin 265: BRFM
9. Bulletin 295: SBN International
10. Bulletin 371: Vox Africa TV
11. Bulletin 383: Peace TV
12. Bulletin 531: GB News

33. It would seem self-evident that hateful attacks on LGBTQ+ groups are offensive. Certainly Ofcom's proper willingness to intervene against attacks on and derogatory treatment of LGBTQ+ people indicates that Ofcom regards such matter as unacceptable absent some strongly justifying context.

34. The examples we list above share the characteristic of being gratuitous attacks. Correlating LGBTQ+ and paedophilia and bestiality is perhaps the best possible example of such an attack there can be.

The absence of context

35. We deal with this subject as a self-standing matter because of its relevance to both hate speech and offensiveness.

36. Rules 2.1 and 2.3 are joined by their requirements of the application of generally accepted standards. Rule 2.3 is in effect a rule subordinate to Rule 2.1. Rule 2.3 requires justification of otherwise offensive content by context.

37. Likewise, Rule 3.2 requires that hate speech be avoided unless context can provide adequate justification.

38. The meanings given for context in relation to Sections Two and Three differ. In particular, context under Section Three of the Code includes *"the extent to which sufficient challenge is provided"*, which does not appear under the equivalent definition in Section Two.
39. Under Sections Two and Three justification requires that the context renders the inclusion of offensive material positively warranted. There was nothing about the editorial context of these programmes which warranted the broadcast of the Statements.
40. As regards Section Three only, the presence of a contrary view, challenge or qualification may be relevant to Ofcom's assessment as to whether the hate speech and/or offence is justified, but it does not necessarily justify the broadcast of seriously harmful or discriminatory statements.
41. In this case, while the format of the programme was a debate between Mr Armstrong and two contributors, Ms Farrow's Statement was expressed as a statement of fact. Further, there was no challenge to either of the Statements adequate to justify the offence caused. And there was no apology or retraction within the programme, instead Mr Armstrong's Statement doubled down on Ms Farrow's Statement.
42. Mr Hulbert's response - an interjection, spoken over by Ms Farrow, to say *"Not at all"* while shaking his head - cannot be said to have justified the hate speech. Despite Mr Armstrong's knowledge that Mr Hulbert would likely offer a different perspective, Mr Hulbert was not given an opportunity to respond.
43. Mr Armstrong's response was to say:
- "Yeah, I mean, look, I obviously, look, I went to Pride last year and filmed it for GB News, actually. I would say the overwhelming amount of people at Pride were there for good reasons. I don't think it was full of pedophiles and everything like I'm sure there are nefarious people."* (emphasis added)
44. Mr Armstrong's Statement did not withdraw or apologise for Ms Farrow's Statement. Instead, as outlined above, the average viewer would understand Mr Armstrong to have said that (a) the overwhelming majority of people at Pride are not paedophiles and do not participate in bestiality; and (b) Pride is not full of paedophiles, but he is sure that some paedophiles and people who participate in bestiality do attend Pride. This response therefore had the effect of doubling down on Ms Farrow's claim.

45. Both GB News and Mr Armstrong commented on the Programme since it was aired. Neither has offered anything that might provide any sort of post hoc justification.
46. Following the Programme, and in response to public discontent concerning the Statements, a GB News spokesperson said:

"The views in question were expressed by an interviewee during a live on-air debate and are their own. They do not reflect the views or editorial position of GB News. Anyone watching the programme would have seen the views were challenged by other contributors and their presenter, Alex Armstrong. GB News takes its responsibilities as a regulated broadcaster seriously and is committed to complying with all of its obligations under the Ofcom Broadcasting Code."

47. GB News's statement offers nothing which might begin to justify the Statements. It did not withdraw the Statements, did not state that they should never have been broadcast, and did not apologise for their broadcast of them, though it is doubtful that any such steps could have justified the broadcast of the Statements. Instead, GB News indicated its view that the alleged on-air challenge to Ms Farrow's Statement was sufficient.
48. A discussion of the Statements was also broadcast on GB News during *Alex Armstrong Tonight* on 12 July 2026, a week after the Programme was broadcast (the "**12 July Programme**"). In the 12 July Programme, Mr Armstrong said:

"Well, tonight I want to address outrage from the LGBT community and press over comments made by one of our guests last weekend."

We welcome robust and difficult debates on this channel and particularly on this show. It is not and never will be an echo chamber for anybody. That's why we always have a dissenting voice on all of my shows. I want you to hear all aspects of every debate. That's made it even more important when guests come on my show and make statements that are considered homophobic or deeply offensive that they are challenged and balanced by me and my guests if they do that. But sometimes I feel it's necessary to go a bit further and I'm going to do that tonight."

Comments made by guests last weekend conflated gay pride with a celebration of paedophilia. This is an age-old gay trope that's been used over a number of years to demonize and slander gay people. And as I said to the guest during that segment, it is a statement I fundamentally reject and have not witnessed when attending Pride myself."

The debate we were meant to be having was around whether or not Pride was suitable for children. Those comments by a guest had no place in that discussion and in my opinion were lazy and offensive arguments that don't reflect my views or the views of this channel where many LGBT people also work.

What I do take serious issue with is when social media commentators and activist groups claim that I made those statements or deliberately try to misrepresent my views in other ways to try and paint me as homophobic. I will not be smeared by people and media who are politically motivated to try and cancel me for simply opposing their political ideology.

As many of you already know, I am openly gay. I very very rarely talk about it or discuss my sexuality because I believe it is such a small part of my character and frankly I don't think you the British uh British public care about it or have any interest in who I'm attracted to nor does being gay have any bearing on my politics and nor should it ever.

*I maintain that pride is not suitable for children. It contains adult material and products. Even on so-called family day, I have witnessed it myself. There's a lot of alcohol, scantily dressed individuals, and political propaganda. All things I don't believe are suitable for children.” (the “**12 July Statement**”)*

49. Following the 12 July Statement, Mr Armstrong interviewed trans woman, Steph Richards (founder of Translucent), about the issue.
50. While GB News's 12 July Statement properly criticised Ms Farrow's Statement, stating that the conflation of the LGBT community with paedophilia is an offensive homophobic trope, no apology was made for its broadcast of the Statements. Further, no reference was made to Ms Farrow's conflation of the LGBTQ+ community with bestiality.
51. Mr Armstrong also mischaracterised Mr Armstrong's Statement. As set out above, Mr Armstrong claimed that:

“I said to the guest during that segment, it is a statement I fundamentally reject and have not witnessed when attending Pride myself. [...] Those comments by a guest had no place in that discussion and in my opinion were lazy and offensive arguments that don't reflect my views or the views of this channel where many LGBT people also work.”

52. That is simply not an accurate portrayal of Mr Armstrong's Statement. Mr Armstrong's Statement certainly did not "*fundamentally reject*" Ms Farrow's view; as outlined above, the average viewer would have understood Mr Armstrong to have confirmed that some people who attend Pride are paedophiles and people who participate in bestiality. It cannot be said that Mr Armstrong's Statement rejected Ms Farrow's Statement.
53. Instead of admitting and apologising for his own involvement in spreading hateful tropes about the LGBTQ+ community, Mr Armstrong claimed that he had been "*smeared*" by "*social media commentators and activist groups*" who claimed that he had made a homophobic statement in order to "*cancel*" him.
54. It is doubtful that anything GB News might have said during *Alex Armstrong Tonight* could have justified the Statements, but for reasons set out above, the 12 July Statement certainly cannot be said to do so.

Sanction

55. It is our view that Ofcom should find breaches of Rules 2.1, 2.3 and 3.2 of the Broadcasting Code and move to consider sanction against GB News.
56. We recognise that the imposition of sanction on a broadcaster is a serious matter and that Ofcom will only, "*...following due process, impose a sanction if it considers that a broadcaster has seriously, deliberately, repeatedly or recklessly breached a relevant requirement.*"¹
57. In respect of repetition, GB News's compliance record is very poor indeed. Since launch in June 2021 the channel has attracted nine Code breaches, including for "*harm*", "*offensive language*", "*gender discrimination/offence*" and "*generally accepted standards*". The breaches have been qualitatively serious each time. Nine further investigations have been discontinued, the bulk following GB News's judicial review – in other words eight further occasions have arisen in which Ofcom has believed there to be grounds to investigate Code breach, but these have been abandoned for reasons other than content or the licensee's argument.

¹ Ofcom *Procedures for the consideration of statutory sanctions in breaches of broadcast licences*, paragraph 1.13.

A footnote to that paragraph makes clear that "*A repeated breach of a relevant requirement, would include, for example: a repeat of the breach of the same requirement as has already been recorded; repetition of the same or similar conduct as that which earlier contravened a requirement; or multiple breaches of other requirements.*"

58. GB News has been sanctioned. In November 2024 it was required to pay a substantial penalty of £100,000 and directed to broadcast a statement of Ofcom's findings.
59. The seriousness of the Statements we comment on above.
60. We also observed above that the three serious breaches of the Broadcasting Code we highlighted in the context of homophobia did not attract sanction. We are surprised at this but recognise that the facts of a breach will differ each time.
61. Ofcom has imposed some 16 sanctions for, or including, breach of Rule 3.2. It has imposed many more for, or including, breach of Rules 2.1 and 2.3.
62. One of the sanctions applied for the broadcast of hate speech was that for Peace TV's programme *The Valley of the Homosexuals*. We do not draw an equivalence between that programming and the Statements, but we do make the point that a specialist religious service with limited broadcast carriage and a relatively tiny audience has been penalised for hate speech relating to the same subject matter as GB News's latest infraction.
63. On this occasion, GB News is a well-known UK news and current affairs channel. Press reports suggest that its audience is substantial. It is available on Freeview, satellite, cable and other platforms. Very well known figures host and appear on the service. Senior ministers and shadow ministers appear regularly. GB News wishes to be, and is, taken seriously as a provider of news and comment.
64. The Programme and GB News's broadcast of the Statements follows Ofcom's finding in October 2025 (Bulletin 531) that GB News breached Rule 2.3 when a GB News presenter, in a February 2025 programme, indicated that the term LGBTQ+ included paedophiles (the "**February Programme**" and "**February Programme Decision**"). That breach was deemed resolved by a subsequent apology issued by the broadcaster.
65. GB News has therefore had 18 months to put in place processes to ensure that such hateful speech, and this pernicious trope in particular, not be re-broadcast on its channels, but it has failed to do so.
66. GB News ought to have put in place safeguards to ensure that this hateful trope about the LGBTQ+ community would never be repeated. And Mr Armstrong ought to have known how to respond to a comment such as Ms Farrow's Statement if those safeguards were to fail. But instead of immediately denouncing the comment, correcting it and apologising for it, which were GB News's only hope of not falling foul

of the Broadcasting Code once Ms Farrow's Statement had been broadcast, Mr Armstrong indicated agreement with Ms Farrow.

67. GB News cannot argue that Ms Farrow's comments were unexpected. Her comments were entirely predictable. Ms Farrow's organisation, CitizenGO is staunchly opposed to LGBTQ+ rights and, according to reports, previously paid for a plane to fly over Spain carrying a banner which said "*They're coming for your children*" in connection with a proposed Spanish law to improve rights for LGBTQ+ people.²
68. We note also that the 12 July Statement was broadcast a week after the Programme, and only after thousands of people complained to Ofcom³ and after Green Party leader, Zack Polanski, and Drag Race Star, Bimini, both with significant social media followings, called for Ofcom to take action.⁴ It is plainly unacceptable for GB News to have waited a week to acknowledge the issues with the Programme, only acting when public pressure made a public statement inevitable.
69. Given that GB News's 12 July Statement made no apology for its broadcast of the Statements, did not make any reference to Ms Farrow's conflation of the LGBTQ+ community with bestiality, mischaracterised and defended Mr Armstrong's Statement, and attributed public criticism of Mr Armstrong's Statement to a "*smear*" campaign, and given GB News's failure to take steps to ensure that this homophobic trope was not broadcast after it was held to have breached the Broadcasting Code 18 months ago, Ofcom should not entertain concluding that GB News's breach was in any sense "resolved" by GB News's broadcast of the 12 July Statement.
70. In the face of these matters it is in our view appropriate that GB News should be subject to sanction consideration.

² <https://www.oursplatform.org/2017/08/14/coming-children-rise-citizengo/>

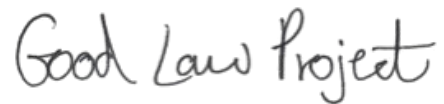
³ Ofcom's Weekly audience report to 6 July 2026 showed 257 complaints had been made. Ofcom's weekly audience report to 13 July 2026 showed a further 9,058 complaints had been made. Up to 20 July 2026, a total of 10,533 complaints had been made.

⁴ <https://metro.co.uk/2026/07/09/bimini-leads-rally-gb-news-guest-links-lgbt-people-padeophiles-29095134/>

Conclusion

71. We invite Ofcom to record breaches of Rules 2.1, 2.3 and 3.2 of the Broadcasting Code and to place GB News into the sanctions process. GB News must be held accountable for their wilful defiance of the law and the harm it has caused by repeating this pernicious lie.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Good Law Project". The script is cursive and fluid, with the words connected together.

Good Law Project