



# Culture, Media and Sport Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 6188 website [www.parliament.uk/cms](http://www.parliament.uk/cms)

Angelos Frangopoulos  
Chief Executive Officer  
GB News

By email

19 September 2023

Dear Angelos,

As you will be aware, the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee has been looking at issues of behaviour in the media following a number of accusations against individuals and concerns about institutional culture.

In July this year we wrote to the editor of The Sun regarding serious accusations made against Dan Wootton. The newspaper responded by setting out its ongoing investigation into his alleged behaviour. The following month DMG Media, as the publisher of MailOnline, announced Mr Wootton has been suspended as a columnist while its own investigations are ongoing. Since then, we are aware that Mr Wootton continues to broadcast on GB News, and indeed discussed the accusations against him during a broadcast on the channel on 19 July 2023.

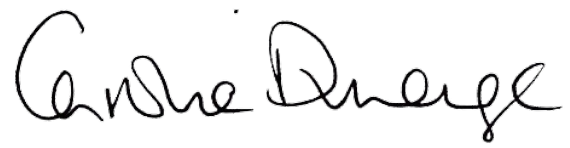
It is vital that viewers have faith in the media especially in the case of news brands, where truthfulness and accuracy are key. It is also vital that those working in and with the media can be confident that they are working in a safe environment. We would, therefore, be grateful if you could set out to us what, if any, investigations or processes have been undertaken since the recent complaints about Mr Wootton were publically raised, and details of the policies and procedures available to staff at GB News in the event they seek to raise issues about the conduct of individuals or the culture at the organisation.

We are also aware that, during the weekend of 16/17 September, GB News presenters opted to use their social media platforms to defend Russell Brand against accusations of rape and sexual assault. While GB News is not responsible for this content, it is concerning that Beverley Turner, who described Mr Brand as “a hero” and invited him to appear on her show, subsequently fronted GB News’s coverage of the allegations regarding Mr Brand on the morning of 18 September.

During that broadcast, Ms Turner announced that “if he’d offered to come on this morning, we’d’ve had him, let’s be honest”. While Ms Turner was challenged on her comments at length by her co-presenter, Andrew Pierce, we remain concerned that having a presenter so clearly supporting an individual who is the subject of intense media coverage, including seeking their appearance on the show, undermines any perception of due impartiality in the broadcasting.

We would be grateful if you could set out your discussions with GB News presenters on their responsibilities on due impartiality and professionalism when seeking to front coverage of news events, and any actions you intend to take in response to these issues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Caroline Dinenage". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'C'.

**Dame Caroline Dinenage DBE MP**  
**Chair, Culture, Media and Sport Committee**