



Dame Caroline Dineage MP
Member of Parliament for Gosport
Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

19th September 2023

Dear Dame Caroline,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 September 2023.

The Select Committee's inquiry into the behaviour of the media and in particular whether there is a problematic institutional culture is a worthy exercise and one which GB News supports. We agree that it is important that viewers have faith in the media and that truthfulness and accuracy are key.

GB News is still a relatively new company. The channel was announced in September 2020 and launched in June 2021 as a fresh approach to news and current affairs. It supports and promotes original news, opinion and debate and its presenters and commentators are, within the law and regulatory boundaries, given free-reign to express their opinions and exercise their right of free speech.

Free speech is an important part of our culture at GB News and we seek to engage in robust debate between strongly held opposing views, some of which can be controversial. We deliver due impartiality by presenting multiple sides of debates across many topics. Whilst it is important to us that presenters can debate matters openly, we maintain strict codes in order to comply with obligations of due impartiality and professionalism. We also publish our Editorial Charter on our website, have a comprehensive social media policy and provide regular training on legal and regulatory compliance to staff.

In addition, we agree that those working in and with the media should be confident that they are working in a safe environment. To this end we have strict written processes and procedures in place for staff to raise issues about the conduct of individuals or the culture at the organisation more generally. These processes and procedures are published internally and staff are given appropriate training relevant to their roles.

Moving onto the specific cases you reference, serious allegations have been made against Dan Wootton, but, as far we are aware, none of these allegations have been admitted or proved by an independent body. GB News continues to monitor the situation.



We understand that The Sun has been investigating Mr Wootton's conduct relating to his employment with that company. The Daily Mail, we understand, has paused his column. Were a formal complaint to be raised by a member of our staff, then GB News would, of course, take appropriate steps.

Serious allegations have been made against Russell Brand, as far as we are aware, none of these have yet been admitted or proved by an independent body. We understand from reports that the police are investigating his conduct but again, as far as we are aware, he has not been charged with any offence.

Regarding our coverage of the Russell Brand story, we approached the topic in exactly the same manner as we would any other matter of public interest. We provided a wide range of views and allowed our presenters to debate the matter fully. This is what is required by Ofcom regulations.

GB News' coverage has displayed the very essence of due impartiality with two presenters exercising their right to free speech by having a robust conversation with opposing views.

At GB News, we value due process and we do not consider that it is our place to presume the outcome of any investigation or judicial proceedings.

Yours sincerely

Angelos Frangopoulos
Chief Executive Officer