

Environment And Communications
ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

IQ21-000079

Division/Agency: Branch Post & ACMA

Topic: List of Sky News complaints

Proof Hansard Page: 42-43 (06 September 2021)

Senator Alex Antic asked:

CHAIR: Could we have a list of the 24 complaints currently in play? Do you have them now?

Ms O'Loughlin: I expect we could provide you with a list, yes.

CHAIR: That would be helpful.

Ms Rainsford: Not of the complainants' information but the complaints that are before us, of course.

CHAIR: You've told us that you don't have information as to what videos of Sky News were taken down by YouTube. Well, we know which ones they are. We want to know what yours are so we can see whether they are the same, or whether this is a systemic problem.

Ms O'Loughlin: We will certainly look at providing that on notice. My understanding from the discussion today is that some of those videos that were taken down by YouTube date back beyond this year and go to last year. I'll just clarify: the 37 complaints that we've been talking about are from the beginning of this year to August, so we might need to go back a little further in providing that information to you.

CHAIR: That would be helpful, thank you. At the very least, can we have the ones that you are referring to from this year?

Ms O'Loughlin: Of course.

Answer:

Under the co-regulatory framework, established by the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, broadcasters are given an opportunity to resolve complaints about content covered by codes of practice before the ACMA becomes involved. Consequently, when complainants contact the ACMA prior to contacting the broadcaster, they are advised to make their complaint to the broadcaster in the first instance. The ACMA provides complainants with information about how to make such a complaint.

Between 1 January 2020 and 31 August 2021, the ACMA advised 24 complainants to complain to the broadcaster in the first instance, regarding Sky News and misinformation about COVID-19. Details of the complaints are at [Attachment A](#).

Attachments

- Attachment A – list of 24 complaints received by the ACMA regarding Sky News and misinformation about COVID-19 where the complainant was advised to go to the broadcaster in the first instance.

Attachment A: Complaints received and referred to licensees

* Where information was provided by the complainant about the program, broadcaster or date of broadcast, it is included in this column

Details provided by the complainant: Program/s Broadcaster Date broadcast*	Summary of matter raised in Complaint / ACMA Reference	Date received
Peta Credlin 26/6/20	<p><i>Complaint</i> / BM-6850</p> <p>Specific comment by the host regarding the cause of a Covid outbreak in Victoria was misleading.</p>	29/6/20
Peta Credlin 26/6/20	<p><i>Complaint</i> / BM-6859</p> <p>Specific comment by the host regarding the cause of a Covid outbreak in Victoria was misleading.</p>	30/6/20
Andrew Bolt Foxtel 12/7/21	<p><i>Complaint</i> / BM-9138</p> <p>Specific comment by the host regarding the danger of Covid and the Delta variant was misleading.</p>	12/7/21
Alan Jones and Andrew Bolt	<p><i>Complaint</i> / BM-9169</p> <p>General complaint that Sky News is spreading misinformation about Covid.</p>	14/7/21
Alan Jones	<p><i>Complaint</i> / BM-9205</p> <p>General complaint that the host provided disinformation about Covid and vaccination.</p>	20/7/21
Not specified	<p><i>Complaint</i> / BM-9208</p> <p>General complaint that Sky News is providing false information regarding Covid and avoiding consequences by correcting online.</p>	20/7/21
Alan Jones/ Craig Kelly 12/7/21	<p><i>Complaint</i> / BM-9212</p> <p>Specific comments made by the host and guest about COVID were misleading and preferred remedy (licence cancellation).</p>	21/7/21
Alan Jones No date provided by complainant	<p><i>Complaint</i> / BM-9216</p> <p>General complaint that the host is spreading misinformation.</p>	21/7/21
Alan Jones 27/7/21	<p><i>Complaint</i> / BM-9260</p> <p>Specific comments made by the host is inciting anti-lockdown riots and preferred remedy (take off air).</p>	27/7/21
Alan Jones 26/7/21	<p><i>Complaint</i> / BM-9261</p> <p>Specific comments made by the host were hate speech directed towards the Prime Minister and the NSW Chief Medical Officer, supported anti-lockdown riots and gave inaccurate information.</p>	27/7/21
Alan Jones WIN No date provided by complainant	<p><i>Complaint</i> / BM-9268</p> <p>General complaint that the host is peddling harmful conspiracy theories.</p>	28/7/21

Details provided by the complainant: Program/s Broadcaster Date broadcast*	Summary of matter raised in Complaint / ACMA Reference	Date received
Alan Jones No date provided by complainant	<i>Complaint</i> / BM-9301 General complaint that the host and other Sky News presenters broadcast false information resulting in vaccine hesitancy.	2/8/21
Not specified	<i>Complaint</i> / BM-9304 General complaint that the SkyNews is presenting misinformation about Covid.	2/8/21
Not specified	<i>Complaint</i> / BM-9305 General complaint that the SkyNews and other News Limited publications are constantly spreading misinformation.	2/8/21
Not specified	<i>Complaint</i> / BM-9306 General complaint that Sky News has been making false claims about Covid treatments and promoting lies and conspiracy theories and no action has been taken.	2/8/21
Alan Jones and Craig Kelly 19/7/21	<i>Complaint</i> / BM-9307 Specific comments made by the host and a guest provided incorrect information.	2/8/21
Not specified	<i>Complaint</i> / BM-9310 General complaint that Sky News is known for misinformation and more recently misinformation regarding Covid.	3/8/21
Not specified	<i>Complaint</i> / BM-9346 General complaint that Sky News online presents selectively inaccurate information.	6/8/21
Multiple Sky News programs	<i>Complaint</i> / BM-9351 General complaint that Sky News has been broadcasting misinformation.	9/8/21
Not specified	<i>Complaint</i> / BM-9341 General complaint that Sky News has been broadcasting misinformation and that its owners should not be able to operate in Australia.	9/8/21
Not specified	<i>Complaint</i> / BM-9360 General complaint that Sky News has been broadcasting misinformation.	9/8/21
Not specified	<i>Complaint</i> / BM-9401 General complaint that Sky News has been broadcasting misinformation.	16/8/21
Not specified	<i>Complaint</i> / BM- 9429 General complaint that Sky News has been broadcasting misinformation and available remedies (fines and penalties).	18/8/21
Not specified	<i>Complaint</i> / BM-9432 General complaint that Sky News has been broadcasting misinformation.	18/8/21