



## GB News Removal

21 November 2023

### Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 30 October in which you asked:

I would like to request the following information:

1. Why was GB News de-platformed/removed from the Senedd?
2. Who made this decision and what political party are they affiliated with?  
(There has been speculation about this in the press, but I would like to know the truth rather than rely on the press).
3. Does the Senedd have a procedure for making decisions like these, and was the procedure followed on this occasion?
4. Is there any evidence/documentation/written justification for de-platforming GB News at the Senedd?
5. What other members/employees of the Senedd were consulted on this issue? Was this a democratic decision, or the decision of one individual (based on their role)?
6. Has the Senedd ever questioned/reviewed the status of any other media coverage/TV channel/website being available in the Senedd? Specifically:
  - did the Senedd question de-platforming the BBC following its misreporting of sexual misconduct Cliff Richard's allegations? If not, why?
  - did the Senedd question de-platforming the BBC following the Russell Brand/Jonathan Ross & Andrew Sachs scandal? If not, why?
  - did the Senedd question de-platforming the BBC following evidence that BBC bosses purposely ignored/hid information regarding allegations made against Jimmy Saville? If not, why?

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- did the Senedd question de-platforming ITV following an Ofcom probe into their phone-in scandal of 2008  
 (<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.marketingweek.com%2Fofcom-hits-itv-with-record-fine-over-phone-in-scandal%2F&data=05%7C01%7CInformation-request%40senedd.wales%7Ccca2b96ba1d843ab59ff08dbd6b67f68%7C38dc5129340c45148a044e8ef2771564%7C0%7C0%7C638339851536322779%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoImC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xdjQRYEscVQS5N4r%2FqjCv72%2FNKYVXmDhrGIOSHeCtr8%3D&reserved=0>). If not, why?
- did the Senedd question de-platforming Channel 5 following the racism scandal on Celebrity Big Brother in 2007  
 ([https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FCelebrity\\_Big\\_Brother\\_%26data=05%7C01%7CInformation-request%40senedd.wales%7Ccca2b96ba1d843ab59ff08dbd6b67f68%7C38dc5129340c45148a044e8ef2771564%7C0%7C0%7C638339851536322779%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoImC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8800%2B2cdTAPKmhTfviTB0U6pbELTrI2EZnt0iazeCy0%3D&reserved=0](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FCelebrity_Big_Brother_%26data=05%7C01%7CInformation-request%40senedd.wales%7Ccca2b96ba1d843ab59ff08dbd6b67f68%7C38dc5129340c45148a044e8ef2771564%7C0%7C0%7C638339851536322779%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoImC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8800%2B2cdTAPKmhTfviTB0U6pbELTrI2EZnt0iazeCy0%3D&reserved=0)(British series 5) racism controversy). If not, why?
- did the Senedd question banning copies of The Guardian newspaper following it's disgusting editorial on David Cameron's late son?  
 (<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.standard.co.uk%2Fnews%2Fpolitics%2Ffury-at-guardian-s-editorial-on-david-cameron-s-son-a4237841.html&data=05%7C01%7CInformation-request%40senedd.wales%7Ccca2b96ba1d843ab59ff08dbd6b67f68%7C38dc5129340c45148a044e8ef2771564%7C0%7C0%7C638339851536322779%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoImC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pY8nR7A81SAz9YKBhGWpzZDB%2FCNWg02kAapBFZmQdBE%3D&reserved=0>) If not, why?

7. Can the Senedd confirm if they have EVER, made a similar decision to de-platform, or bring in to question, showing any other TV Channel, website, radio station, EVER, before the de-platforming of GB News?
8. Can the Senedd commit to making similar decisions regarding de-platforming of ALL media channels following the poor behaviour of individuals?

Please find our response below.

*1. Why was GB News de-platformed/removed from the Senedd?*

The GB News channel has been suspended from the Senedd's internal TV system.

Below is the content of an email sent to senior Senedd Commission staff explaining the reasons for this:

*I have been following the news regarding Laurence Fox's awful comments on GB News. Totally offensive, deliberate and inappropriate on a news channel, any channel. It was also compounded by inappropriate comments from the programme's presenter.*

*As you will know I have been challenged previously in the Senedd on the appropriateness of GB News on our internal tv system during Commission Questions. I consider now that they should not continue to be broadcast on our system. I can no longer get up on my feet to defend it. I ask that it is immediately removed from the system and will continue to be suspended until the Commission agrees for it to be placed back on the system. I will inform the Commission of my decision at our next meeting.*

*Members and staff may still be able to watch GB news using other means but it will not be facilitated by the Commission internal system.*

- 2. Who made this decision and what political party are they affiliated with? (There has been speculation about this in the press, but I would like to know the truth rather than rely on the press).*

The Llywydd made the decision.

- 3. Does the Senedd have a procedure for making decisions like these, and was the procedure followed on this occasion?*

We hold no recorded information in relation to this part of your request.

4. *Is there any evidence/documentation/written justification for de-platforming GB News at the Senedd?*

Please see our response to question 1, above.

5. *What other members/employees of the Senedd were consulted on this issue? Was this a democratic decision, or the decision of one individual (based on their role)?*

Please see our response to question 2, above.

6. *Has the Senedd ever questioned/reviewed the status of any other media coverage/TV channel/website being available in the Senedd? Specifically:*
  - *did the Senedd question de-platforming the BBC following it's mis-reporting of sexual misconduct Cliff Richard's allegations? If not, why?*
  - *did the Senedd question de-platforming the BBC following the Russell Brand/Jonathan Ross & Andrew Sachs scandal? If not, why?*
  - *did the Senedd question de-platforming the BBC following evidence that BBC bosses purposely ignored/hid information regarding allegations made against Jimmy Saville? If not, why?*
  - *did the Senedd question de-platforming ITV following an Ofcom probe into their phone-in scandal of 2008 ([link](#)) If not, why?*
  - *did the Senedd question de-platforming Channel 5 following the racism scandal on Celebrity Big Brother in 2007 ([link](#)) If not, why?*
  - *did the Senedd question banning copies of The Guardian newspaper following it's disgusting editorial on David Cameron's late son? ([link](#)) If not, why?*

We hold no recorded information in relation to this part of your request.

7. *Can the Senedd confirm if hey have EVER, made a similar decision to de-platform, or bring in to question, showing any other TV Channel, website, radio station, EVER, before the de-platforming of GB News?*

Jenny Rathbone Member of the Senedd (MS) questioned GB news being available to staff and MSs during *Questions to the Senedd Commission [Plenary 29/03/2023 - Welsh Parliament \(senedd.wales\)](#)*.

8. *Can the Senedd commit to making similar decisions regarding de-platforming of ALL media channels following the poor behaviour of individuals?*

We hold no recorded information in relation to this part of your request.

Yours sincerely

**Buddug Saer**  
**Freedom of Information Manager**  
**Welsh Parliament**

Your request has been considered according to the principles set out in the **Code of Practice on Public Access to Information**. If you have any questions regarding this response please contact me. If you feel you have cause for complaint, please follow the guidance below.

Cause for concern or complaint with your FOI response?

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Parliament's handling of your request, you can request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Manager at:

**Information-request@senedd.wales** or in writing to

Welsh Parliament  
Governance and Assurance  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF