# GB News faces crisis over comedian’s LGBTQ+ paedophilia joke as thousands demand show axing



GB News is currently grappling with significant backlash following controversy surrounding its 'anti-woke' comedy show, "Headliners." Recent comments made by comedian Josh Howie have incited over 1,200 complaints from viewers and prompted 70,000 people to sign a petition demanding accountability. Howie's remarks, which suggested that the LGBTQ+ community included paedophiles, were made during a segment discussing a sermon by a US bishop advocating for the inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals. While Howy maintains that he was merely attempting humour, many have perceived his joke as deeply offensive and harmful.

The gravity of this situation has led to speculation about the show's future, with presenter Lewis Schaffer indicating management is considering whether to continue airing "Headliners." In a post on X, he noted that the show would remain on air for another fortnight as discussions unfold. Schaffer and his co-host, Leo Kearse, openly acknowledged the restrictions placed on them regarding this topic, reinforcing the show's precarious position amid growing protest.

This incident is not the first time GB News has faced scrutiny from the public and regulators alike. The channel has a history of controversies, having received a fine from media regulator Ofcom for breaching impartiality rules in the past year. Ofcom's investigations have highlighted a pattern of issues within GB News, including a prior instance where a programme featured remarks deemed homophobic but which were dismissed by Ofcom under the premise of 'freedom of expression.' Critics have raised alarms about the network's approach to sensitive topics, citing an overall trend of inflammatory rhetoric targeting minority communities.

The situation surrounding Howie's comments has ignited a renewed focus on the standards of comedy and its societal implications. Notably, LGBTQ+ advocacy groups have voiced strong disapproval, with many describing Howie's remarks as hate speech. The Good Law Project has been particularly active in mobilising a response, having successfully prompted one of the largest complaint volumes in Ofcom's history. Their ongoing campaign underscores the demand for accountability in broadcasting standards that protect vulnerable populations from harmful rhetoric.

As GB News contends with its recent setbacks, the fallout from the "Headliners" incident illustrates the complex interplay between comedy, freedom of speech, and societal responsibility. The ongoing dialogue raises questions about the role of media outlets in upholding inclusive discourse and the implications of failing to do so.

The broadcaster now finds itself at a crossroads, navigating the challenges of public sentiment and regulatory oversight, as it screenshots its internal culture and its commitment to responsible broadcasting amid fierce criticism.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14752711/GB-News-axing-anti-woke-comedy-raft-complaints.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://pressgazette.co.uk/the-wire/newspaper-corrections-media-mistakes-errors-legal/gb-news-josh-howie-ofcom-record-complaints-lgbtq-paedos/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14752711/GB-News-axing-anti-woke-comedy-raft-complaints.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2025/02/18/drag-race-gb-news-slur/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14752711/GB-News-axing-anti-woke-comedy-raft-complaints.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2023/04/04/ofcom-gb-news-match-of-the-day-complaints-gary-lineker/), [[4]](https://bylinetimes.com/2025/01/31/gb-news-ofcom-complaints-guest-boycott-hosts-label-lgbt-people-paedos-and-deviants/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://goodlawproject.org/ofcom-launches-investigation-into-gb-news-over-lgbtq-slur/), [[7]](https://www.chortle.co.uk/news/2025/02/12/57486/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14752711/GB-News-axing-anti-woke-comedy-raft-complaints.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2025/02/18/drag-race-gb-news-slur/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14752711/GB-News-axing-anti-woke-comedy-raft-complaints.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2023/04/04/ofcom-gb-news-match-of-the-day-complaints-gary-lineker/> - In April 2023, Ofcom decided not to investigate a GB News broadcast that included casual homophobia. Presenter Patrick Christys referred to Gary Lineker as a 'rabid lefty' and mocked Brighton's LGBTQ+ community. Despite 222 complaints, Ofcom deemed the comments as 'freedom of expression' and not an attack on the LGBTQ+ community. Critics, including TV critic Scott Bryan, labelled the remarks as homophobic, highlighting the programme's lack of football content and its focus on political commentary. ([thepinknews.com](https://www.thepinknews.com/2023/04/04/ofcom-gb-news-match-of-the-day-complaints-gary-lineker/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://pressgazette.co.uk/the-wire/newspaper-corrections-media-mistakes-errors-legal/gb-news-josh-howie-ofcom-record-complaints-lgbtq-paedos/> - In January 2025, GB News presenter Josh Howie faced over 60,000 complaints after suggesting that the 'full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons' at a church would 'include paedos'. The Good Law Project launched a campaign, gathering more than 71,000 complaints, surpassing the previous record. Ofcom received 1,227 complaints directly and is assessing whether to investigate. Howie claimed his comment was a joke about churches, not about LGBTQ+ individuals. ([pressgazette.co.uk](https://pressgazette.co.uk/the-wire/newspaper-corrections-media-mistakes-errors-legal/gb-news-josh-howie-ofcom-record-complaints-lgbtq-paedos/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://bylinetimes.com/2025/01/31/gb-news-ofcom-complaints-guest-boycott-hosts-label-lgbt-people-paedos-and-deviants/> - In January 2025, GB News presenters Josh Howie and Michelle Dewberry made controversial remarks linking LGBTQ+ individuals to paedophilia and describing them as 'deviants'. These comments led to a significant number of Ofcom complaints and prompted a boycott by a prominent trans campaigner and GB News contributor. The Good Law Project also launched a petition, gathering thousands of signatures to present to Ofcom. ([bylinetimes.com](https://bylinetimes.com/2025/01/31/gb-news-ofcom-complaints-guest-boycott-hosts-label-lgbt-people-paedos-and-deviants/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2025/02/18/drag-race-gb-news-slur/> - In February 2025, stars of RuPaul’s Drag Race UK, including Divina de Campo and Crystal, condemned GB News host Josh Howie's remarks linking LGBTQ+ individuals to paedophilia. They described the comments as 'disgusting' and 'hate speech', expressing concern over the normalisation of such rhetoric. The Good Law Project had previously delivered over 71,000 complaints to Ofcom regarding the incident. ([thepinknews.com](https://www.thepinknews.com/2025/02/18/drag-race-gb-news-slur/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://goodlawproject.org/ofcom-launches-investigation-into-gb-news-over-lgbtq-slur/> - In March 2025, Ofcom launched a formal investigation into GB News over comments made by presenter Josh Howie on 22 January, which linked the LGBTQ+ community to paedophilia. The Good Law Project's campaign resulted in a record number of complaints, with over 71,000 individuals filing complaints. The investigation aims to determine whether the broadcast violated broadcasting standards. ([goodlawproject.org](https://goodlawproject.org/ofcom-launches-investigation-into-gb-news-over-lgbtq-slur/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.chortle.co.uk/news/2025/02/12/57486/> - In February 2025, comedian Josh Howie faced over 60,000 complaints after making a joke on GB News that appeared to suggest the LGBTQ+ community included paedophiles. The comments were made during the 'Headliners' programme, leading to a significant backlash. Howie later clarified that his remark was intended as a joke about paedophilia in churches, not about LGBTQ+ individuals. ([chortle.co.uk](https://www.chortle.co.uk/news/2025/02/12/57486/?utm_source=openai))