# Ofcom Begins Sanction Process Against GB News for Rishi Sunak Forum Breaches



**Ofcom Initiates Sanction Process Against GB News Over Rishi Sunak Forum**

On May 20, 2024, Ofcom announced that it is beginning the process for a statutory sanction against GB News due to serious breaches of impartiality rules. This follows an episode of "People’s Forum: The Prime Minister," where Prime Minister Rishi Sunak participated in a live, hour-long question-and-answer session broadcast in February, ahead of the upcoming UK general election.

The broadcasting regulator received 547 complaints about the programme, which focused predominantly on Conservative Party policies without providing an adequately balanced range of views. Ofcom's investigation found that the programme failed to challenge Sunak's statements or include significant alternative perspectives, providing the Prime Minister with an uncontested platform to promote government policies.

GB News criticized Ofcom’s decision, arguing that the forum allowed the public to question the Prime Minister directly. The channel described the ruling as an attempt to silence them and undermine democracy.

The sanction process could take up to two months and may result in a fine, reflecting the breaches' severity.

**Key Points:**
- **Event:** Regulatory action by Ofcom.
- **Subject:** Programme featuring Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.
- **Date of Incident:** February broadcast.
- **Complaints:** 547 complaints received.
- **Regulatory Findings:** Failure to ensure impartiality and balance.
- **Potential Outcome:** Statutory sanction against GB News.
- **Response:** GB News disputes Ofcom's findings.