

## **Editorial Complaints to the BBC: January – March 2007**

The BBC handled over 31,000 editorial complaints between January and March 2007. These ranged from a small number of complaints about potentially serious breaches of editorial guidelines through to a much larger collection of views about programme content and scheduling.

The key themes which emerged are detailed below:

**Offence:** There were complaints that Kelvin MacKenzie was an unsuitable panellist for Question Time. Complainants referred to comments made in the Sun Newspaper about the Hillsborough disaster in 1989 when Mr MacKenzie was its editor.

Some viewers complained about a report in Blue Peter about life in Oman which included the sale and slaughter of a goat.

**Scheduling:** Complaints were received about the unbilled replay of the FA Cup Reading v Manchester United match on BBC One on 27 February which meant Holby City and Life on Mars were not transmitted as originally billed in some listings. There were also complaints that the unbilled replay of the FA Cup Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea match disrupted BBC One's evening schedule on 19 March.

**Bias:** There were complaints that 9/11: the Conspiracy Files was allegedly biased in favour of the official 9/11 findings. Some of the complaints came from an organised lobby group. A response was posted on the BBC's Editors' blog site.

Viewers complained that they felt the edition of Panorama which reported on the IVF clinics run by Mohamed Taranissi was biased against him and should have featured other IVF practitioners.

**Bad Language:** There were complaints from viewers who believed they heard strong language used during an edition of Neighbours. The word in question was "freaking".

Viewers complained that bad language in the situation comedy After You've Gone was inappropriate for a pre-watershed programme which was repeated late afternoon on Sunday.

**News:** There were complaints that some aspects of the television news coverage of Saddam Hussein's execution were in bad taste.

**Factual Error:** Viewers complained that the presenters of Eurovision: Making Your Mind Up had simultaneously announced different winners.

**Sensitivity and Portrayal:** There were complaints from viewers who felt the decision to feature a rape trial in The Verdict trivialised this crime.

**Other Complaints:** There were complaints that it had been inappropriate to release live birds during Top Gear of the Pops. Viewers were unhappy to learn that there was to be no second series of Lilies. There were also complaints that due to his criminal conviction Jeffrey Archer should not have been chosen as a juror on The Verdict.

The BBC's responses to some recent issues can be read at [www.bbc.co.uk/complaints](http://www.bbc.co.uk/complaints).