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Sia Lagos

Registrar

Important Information

This Notice has been inserted as the first page of the document which has been accepted for electronic filing. It is now taken to be part of that document for the purposes of the proceeding in the Court and contains important information for all parties to that proceeding. It must be included in the document served on each of those parties.

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Form 59
Rule 29.02(1)

Affidavit

No. 189 of 2024

Federal Court of Australia
District Registry: New South Wales Registry
Division: Fair Work

ANTOINETTE LATTOUF

Applicant

AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Respondent

Affidavit of: **Christopher Nicholas Oliver-Taylor**
Address: 120 Southbank Boulevard, Southbank VIC 3006
Occupation: Chief Content Officer, Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Date: 11 October 2024

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1	Affidavit of Christopher Nicholas Oliver-Taylor affirmed on 11 October 2024	1 - 124	1 - 31
2	Exhibit "COT-1"		

I, Christopher Nicholas Oliver-Taylor, at Melbourne, Victoria, affirm:

- I am employed by Australian Broadcasting Corporation (**ABC**) in the role of Chief Content Officer. I have held that role since March 2023.
- I make this affidavit based on my own direct observations and knowledge, save for where I say otherwise. Where I depose to matters based on information provided to me,

Filed on behalf of (name & role of party) Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the Respondent
Prepared by (name of person/lawyer) Ben Glenn Dudley
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Address for service Level 40, Governor Phillip Tower, 1 Farrer Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000
(include state and postcode)

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[Version 3 form approved 02/05/2019]

I identify the source of that information and otherwise believe such information to be true and correct, based on the source of the information, the source's role and the circumstances in which it was provided to me.

3. Where I set out words that I have spoken or heard, I will do so setting out the substance or gist of those words to the best of my recollection.
4. I will set out the time and date stamped on emails that I have received. I read and considered each of those emails. It is my usual practice to read emails that I receive shortly after receiving them. I cannot now remember precisely when I read any of the received emails to which I will refer, but I cannot remember any reason why I would not have followed my usual practice in relation to each such email.
5. I will also set out the time and date stamped on emails that I sent. I wrote each of those emails. It is my usual practice to send emails shortly after I finish writing them. I cannot now remember precisely when I wrote any of the sent emails to which I will refer, but I cannot remember any reason why I would not have followed my usual practice in relation to each such email.
6. Where I refer to the content of emails that I received or sent, I will do so setting out my understanding of what was said in those emails as at the time when I read or wrote them.
7. I have reviewed the affidavit of Antoinette Lattouf dated 9 September 2024 (**Lattouf Affidavit**). Where I have not responded to a matter in the Lattouf Affidavit, that should not be understood as my agreement with Ms Lattouf's evidence in relation to that matter.
8. Exhibited and marked "**COT-1**" is a bundle of documents. In making this affidavit, I have in front of me and have had regard to Exhibit COT-1.

BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATION

9. Before starting work at the ABC, I had over 20 years' experience in the Australian media industry. Between 2001 and 2011, I worked at the ABC in various positions including Head of Production and Head of Television (Business & Operations). During my career I have also held the following positions:
 - (a) between February 2022 and March 2023, I held the position of Director of Production (Australia & New Zealand) at Netflix;



- (b) between September 2018 and February 2022, I held the position as Chief Executive Officer of Fremantle Asia Pacific; and
- (c) between 2011 and 2018, I held the position of Managing Director at NBC Universal's Matchbox Pictures Pty Ltd.
10. I currently hold a number of directorships, including at The Melbourne Theatre Company, and Screen Careers.

MY ROLE AT THE ABC

11. In my current role, I am responsible for the Content Division of the ABC (a division created in 2023 from the merger of the Entertainment & Specialist and Regional & Local divisions). This involves being responsible for all content that goes to air on the ABC across all platforms – screen, audio and digital – apart from news content.
12. I report directly to Mr David Anderson, Managing Director, and a number of people report to me, including (relevantly) Mr Ben Latimer, Head of Audio Content.
13. I have overall responsibility for ABC Radio Sydney as part of my portfolio of responsibilities, but have very limited interaction on a daily basis with particular programmes such as *Sydney Mornings*. Mr Latimer and others have direct management responsibility for these programmes.
14. The ABC's website says of *Sydney Mornings*, '*Keep informed, amused, entertained and inspired each weekday morning with local Sydney stories, political insights, your opinions and engaging discussions.*' I consider that to be an accurate description of the programme. While it is a light programme, it includes political content. A feature of the programme is that listeners 'phone in' to discuss their opinions with the presenters. These can, and often do, involve political subjects. The programme is regularly punctuated by the ABC's regular news segments. At the time of the events that are the subject of this affidavit, those segments often featured news items about the Israel-Gaza war.

MS LATTOUF

15. I do not personally know Ms Lattouf. To the best of my recollection, I have only met and interacted with Ms Lattouf briefly once, which was in or about July 2023, when we both

attended a meeting that I understand Ms Lattouf was attending in her capacity as a member of the Board of the Media Diversity Australia group.

16. Before 18 December 2023, I was not aware that Ms Lattouf was being engaged to fill in for Sarah Macdonald on *Sydney Mornings* during holiday programming. I became aware of Ms Lattouf's engagement on Monday, 18 December 2023 after she had presented the show that morning.
17. At and throughout the whole of the time of the events that are the subject of this affidavit,
 - (a) I had no actual knowledge of the fact or content of any political opinions that Ms Lattouf held;
 - (b) the only source of my knowledge about the fact or content of any political opinions Ms Lattouf may have held was what I inferred from the events, conversations or documents to which I refer in this affidavit; and
 - (c) I had no actual knowledge about Ms Lattouf's race or national extraction.

MONDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2023

18. At 1.35 pm and 1.36 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I received three emails sent by Mr Anderson to me and Justin Stevens, Director of News, forwarding complaints that the ABC had received from members of the public about Ms Lattouf hosting *Sydney Mornings* on ABC Radio Sydney. A copy of each of those three emails is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tabs 1, 2 and 3**.
19. In relation to the emails referred to at paragraph [18]:
 - (a) I understood from Mr Anderson's first email that these were not all of the complaints the ABC had received, but only some examples;
 - (b) I do not know, or know of, any of the people who sent those emails to Mr Anderson; and
 - (c) it was when I read the emails that I first became aware that Ms Lattouf was working for the ABC at that time.

20. Between 1.36 pm and 1.40 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I had a telephone call with Mr Latimer, from whom I learned for the first time that Ms Lattouf had been engaged as a casual broadcaster filling in for Ms Macdonald on ABC Radio Sydney.
21. At 1.40 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I responded to Mr Anderson by email, a copy of which is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 4**.
22. At 1.49 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I sent an email to Mr Steve Ahern regarding the complaints that had been received about Ms Lattouf. Mr Ahern was at that time the Acting Head of Capital City Networks. In that position he reported to Mr Latimer. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 5**. As to this email:
- (a) The content of this email accurately reflects my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at that time.
- (b) In this email, I referred to the concept of impartiality in the sense in which I usually use it in connection with the ABC and its employees, being the absence of conduct that could reasonably be perceived to unduly favour or support one perspective of a controversial issue over another. Every reference to the concept of impartiality in any other communication to which I refer in this affidavit was used in the same sense, and I will refer to the concept of impartiality in the same way throughout this affidavit. Throughout the whole period of the events that are the subject of this affidavit, one of my governing considerations was that impartiality was critical to the ABC's statutory obligations, and to the maintenance of its independence and integrity. My view was, and remains, that all employees of the ABC are free to hold opinions about any issue, including contentious issues. The fact or content of employees' opinions are not matters with which I consider that I can ever properly be concerned, and in practice I treat them as being irrelevant to any decisions that I take on behalf of the ABC – including, as I will describe, every decision that is the subject of this affidavit. However, the expression by employees of their opinions about contentious issues, including by conduct external to their work for the ABC, is a matter about which I am concerned, if by engaging in such conduct an employee could reasonably be perceived as not being impartial in relation to a contentious issue. In this regard, I considered the ABC's Personal Use of Social Media Guidelines to be a relevant consideration.



- (c) At the time I wrote this email, and throughout the events that are the subject of this affidavit, I considered that issues pertaining to the Israel-Gaza war were highly contentious, in the sense in which I understand that concept to be used within the ABC. For example, the ABC's Editorial Policy says of the concept, '*A story or issue should be regarded as contentious if it involves disputes over conflicting values, facts, policies, reputations, and interests. They can often be characterised by public debate; polarised views and evidence of high emotion; and contradictory evidence.*'
- (d) I instructed Mr Ahern that he should make sure that Ms Lattouf '*is not and has not been posting anything that would suggest she is not impartial*'. As to this, my expectation at the time when I wrote those words was that Mr Ahern would understand that he should take steps to ensure that Ms Lattouf did not post anything that would suggest that she was not impartial in relation to the Israel-Gaza war; to my mind, that would inevitably require him to give her an instruction or direction to that effect, and to ensure that she understood that she was to comply with that instruction or direction.
- (e) I asked Mr Ahern to advise why Ms Lattouf had been selected as host. This reflected the fact that I had questions in my mind about whether appropriate enquiries had been made about whether Ms Lattouf might have engaged in conduct that could reasonably give rise to questions about her impartiality in relation to the Israel-Gaza war.
- (f) I also wrote, '*I am not suggesting we make any changes at this time, but the perceived or actual lack of impartiality of her views are concerning.*'
23. At 1.51 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Ahern, a copy of which is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tab 6**. When I read this email, I assumed that I could rely on Mr Ahern to comply with the instruction to which I have referred in paragraph [22(d)]. Thereafter, my assumption was that he had in fact done so.
24. At 1.55 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, Sashka Koloff (Editorial Standards and Compliance Manager) responded to this email chain offering assistance, and asking that the substance of the complaints be shared. Ms Koloff is a contact person in my division at the ABC from whom we seek advice about editorial standards and compliance issues. A copy of her email is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tab 7**.

25. At 1.57 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I forwarded to Mr Ahern, Ms Koloff, Mr Simon Melkman and Mr Latimer, as attachments, the three complaints that had been forwarded to me by Mr Anderson. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 8**. At that time, Mr Melkman was the Acting Editorial Director. He was at the same level in the ABC's hierarchy as me, under a different, but adjacent, reporting line to Mr Anderson. His responsibilities included providing guidance and advice about matters of editorial policy, including questions about impartiality, independence and integrity.
26. At 2.53 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Melkman, a copy of which is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 9**.
27. At 3.32 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Ahern, a copy of which is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 10**.
28. At 3.43 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I received an email from Ms Koloff to me and copying Mr Latimer, a copy of which is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 11**.
29. At 3.45 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, Mr Ahern responded to Mr Melkman's email, copying Ms Koloff, Mr Latimer and me. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 12**.
30. At 3.48 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, Mr Melkman responded to Mr Ahern by email to Mr Ahern, Ms Koloff and me, copy to Mr Latimer. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 13**.
31. At 3.54 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I sent an email to Mr Melkman, Mr Ahern and Ms Koloff, copy to Mr Latimer, stating that the information Mr Ahern had provided sounded reasonable to me, and saying that:

'I will respond to the MDO [by which I meant the Managing Director's Office] now and explain that we have reviewed and expect her to continue on air this week and finish on Friday.'

A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 14**. The contents of this email accurately reflect my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at that time.

32. At 4.07 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I emailed Mr Anderson. I wrote:

Hi David, cc Justin for Viz.

A follow up to the earlier notes regarding Antoinette Lattouf and all credit to Steve Ahern for working so quickly to come back to us on the details. Selection of Antoinette Lattouf

- *As part of our diversity policy a couple of years ago, a number of people were identified as potential future presenters for ABC Radio, Antoinette was one of them.*
- *She was trained in ABC radio presenting, including editorial policies. She presented a series of development shifts on digital channels about two years ago as part of her training, there were no incidents during those shifts.*
- *She is a journalist who previously worked for SBS and other media. She has also reported for ABC News Antoinette Lattouf - ABC News [abc.net.au]*
- *Her background is Lebanese Christian, she grew up in Western Sydney, the child of Lebanese immigrants.*
- *She presented two weeks of our national summer lineup last year without incident.*
- *This current stint is one week on air only in Sydney. She will finish on Friday and has not been booked up for any other shifts this season*
- *She has signed the journalists letter to media outlets, this happened after she was booked for one weeks work*

Views on the Israel-Gaza War

- *She has expressed views about being a child of migrants and views on discrimination, but has not, as far as we know, expressed personal views that would position her as biased in the current conflict. She has, however, recently reported on the Opera House protest.*
- *She has done reporting that the chants of 'gas the Jews' were unverified. She has investigated that position in an article for Crikey, which could be*

perceived as taking a position, but, when read in full, it appears balanced and journalistically sound. Police, factcheckers can't verify viral 'gas the Jews' footage (crikey.com.au) [crikey.com.au]

- *She also posted a similar commentary on Instagram on the 'gas the Jews' chants Grab a cuppa and join me as I ask a lot of powerful people questions about a horrendously offensive video that went viral. Nobody can... | Instagram [instagram.com]*
- *Some of the criticism relates to the reporting in these articles/posts*

On Air program

- *Today's program did not contain any content about Israel-Gaza, and Local Radio Sydney have confirmed that she will not be covering the Israel-Gaza conflict and it is not within the program brief to talk about this topic.*
- *The show followed the brief, to reflect Sydney in the first week of the school holidays*
- *Antoinette and the production team have been advised that there should not be any Israel-Gaza War coverage in her show this week, as it does not fit the holiday Sydney brief for the show.*
- *One segment, about 'boycotts' and 'buycotts' in today's show did mention that at the current time there is a lot of people who are worried about the state of the world at the moment, but there was no specific Gaza reference*

After consultation with Simon on the above points, this is our agreed position:

In terms of how does the ABC apply the personal use of social media guidelines, it's important to consider the person's role and the extent to which their personal social media activity can affect the ABC's reputation for impartiality. Presenting the Mornings program on ABC Sydney is a high-profile role, but if she's only doing it on a temporary basis (for a week) it wouldn't be reasonable to expect that all of her previous social media activity would necessarily adhere to our guidelines. We are not suggesting she's breached those guidelines, rather making the point that the ABC ought to take a reasonable approach based on the fact that she's only in this role for a week.

Please let any of us know David if you require further information.

Best wishes

Chris

A copy of this email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 15**. The content of this email accurately reflects my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at that time.

33. I did not receive a response from Mr Anderson to the email referred to in paragraph [32].
34. At 4.07 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I forwarded the email referred to in paragraph [32] to Mr Ahern, Ms Koloff, Mr Melkman and Mr Latimer. A copy of the email by which I did so is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 16**.
35. On the evening of Monday, 18 December 2023, I had a text message exchange with Mr Anderson as follows:
- (a) At 8.44 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I received, and at about that time read, a text message from Mr Anderson in which he wrote:

Also, I think we have an Antoinette issue. Her socials are full of anti-Semitic [sic] hatred. I'll send you a link. I'm not sure we can have someone on air that suggests that Hamas should return to their ethnic cleansing in Gaza and move onto the West Bank.

- (b) At 8.48 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, Mr Anderson sent a screenshot of what I understood from its appearance to be some activity on Ms Lattouf's social media account or accounts. I looked at it at about that time. I saw that the screenshot showed a profile with the name 'Orna Mazor769' with the text:

'After the massacre of 1500 Israelis and the kidnapping of 240 hostages. Do you expect Israel to keep quiet?'

and Ms Lattouf's name and the text:

'Hell no! They should finish off the ethnic cleansing job they started. Then move on the West Bank. Kill and annex. Then same with Lebanon and Jordan.'



It also said:

'Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this – all of this – for you guys.'

with three love heart emojis, apparently inserted by Ms Lattouf.

- (c) At 8.49 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I responded to Mr Anderson by text message, writing:

'Copy, We'll check socials now. And agree'

- (d) At 8.49 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, Mr Anderson sent a link to what I understood to be some of Ms Lattouf's social media activity.

Photographs of text messages between me and Mr Anderson on Monday, 18 December 2023, as shown on my iPad, are in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 17**.

36. Upon receiving this screenshot from Mr Anderson, I believed it to be a screenshot of something that Ms Lattouf had posted on her social media account(s) 'live' – that is, at that time, or very recently, and during the period of her engagement with the ABC to present *Sydney Mornings*. I do not recall looking at the date in the screenshot.
37. The content of the text message to which I have referred in subparagraph [35(c)] accurately reflects my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at that time.
38. I do not use social media (except for LinkedIn), so I did not have access to view, and did not view, Ms Lattouf's social media accounts myself on the evening of Monday, 18 December 2023. I looked at only what Mr Anderson had sent to me.
39. At 8.51 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I sent an email to Mr Ahern and Mr Latimer (copying Mr Melkman) attaching the screenshot that I had been sent by Mr Anderson, and writing, as was the case, *'I think we have a problem'*. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 18**.
40. In thinking, and writing, *'I think we have a problem'* I had four considerations in mind. First, I considered that there was good reason to think that, by posting the material referred to in paragraph [35], Ms Lattouf had apparently engaged in conduct that could reasonably be perceived as not being impartial, and that she had done so at a time when she was presenting for the ABC. Second, I thought that there was a serious

question about whether her conduct was aligned with the Personal Use of Social Media Guidelines. Third, I considered that there was good reason to think that Ms Lattouf had not complied with an instruction or direction not to post anything during the week in which she was engaged with the ABC that would suggest that she was not impartial in relation to the Israel-Gaza war, being the instruction or direction that I assumed she had been given, as set out in paragraphs [22(d)] and [23]. Fourth, if Ms Lattouf had in fact not complied with that instruction or direction, then there was a serious question about whether I or the ABC could have confidence that she would not say something on air that could reasonably be perceived as not being impartial in relation to the Israel-Gaza war.

41. The text message exchange between myself and Mr Anderson continued:

(a) At 8.54 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, Mr Anderson wrote:

'I was have a staff member do the same – what would you do?'

When I read this text, I understood Mr Anderson to be asking me for my view about Ms Lattouf's conduct in apparently posting the material referred to in paragraph [35].

(b) At 8.55 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I wrote:

'I think this is hugely problematic'

The content of this text accurately reflects my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at the time, for the reasons given in paragraph [40].

42. At 8.57 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Ahern to me and Mr Latimer. Mr Ahern wrote:

'Does [Ms Lattouf] need to come off air? If so, it can be done, but may be disruptive if done tomorrow.'

A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 19**.



43. At 9.01 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I responded to Mr Ahern by email to Mr Ahern and Mr Latimer, copy to Mr Melkman, writing:

'Not tomorrow. Can you work with Simon [Melkman] and assess what is going on? Suspect very hard for her to stay on air to the end of this week if her tweets are correct. But let's cautiously review.'

A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 20**. The content of this email accurately reflects my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at that time.

44. In writing *'if her tweets are correct'*, I was seeking to expressly leave open the question of whether Ms Lattouf had in fact posted the material referred to in paragraph [35] at a time when she was engaged by the ABC to present *Sydney Mornings*.
45. In writing *'[s]uspect very hard for her to stay on air to the end of this week'*, I was seeking to indicate that I had a view that, if Ms Lattouf had in fact posted the material referred to in paragraph [35] at a time when she was engaged by the ABC to present *Sydney Mornings*, then she might not be able to remain on air for the rest of the week of her engagement, but to emphasise that my view about this was only provisional. The reasoning behind that provisional view was that set out in paragraph [40].
46. At and around the same time as the email referred to in paragraph [43], the text message exchange between me and Mr Anderson continued:

- (a) At 9.00 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, Mr Anderson wrote:

It's a reputational issue. And clearly we need to research anyone as a replacement presenter rather than just Steve be happy they've done Ed pols training. As per Justin's note to News staff, the perception of our people's impartiality is as important as their adherence to the policies. Anyway, let's chat tomorrow.

- (b) At 9.01 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I wrote:

Agree. I've just spoken to Steve again, Simon had [sic] him are reviewing her socials asap. Likely on air tomorrow but I presume she gets pulled off air after tomorrows shift

My reference to having *'spoken'* with Mr Ahern was to the emails referred to in paragraphs [42] and [43]. The words *'presume she gets pulled off air after*

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tomorrow's shift' reflect the same provisional view and reasoning that are discussed in paragraph [45]. So understood, the content of this text message accurately reflects my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at the time.

47. At 9.15 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Ahern, a copy of which is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tab 21**.
48. At 9.26 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, Mr Anderson sent a text message to me containing another screenshot of what appeared to be some of Ms Lattouf's social media activity. The screenshot showed a post apparently by Ms Lattouf where she wrote:
- 'Watching Israeli hostages & Palestinian children who've been imprisoned reunited with loves ones is truly heartwarming. They should never have had to endure those atrocities. We need a PERMANENT ceasefire and to address the ROOT of the problem – unlawful occupation of Palestine'*.
49. At 11.00 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, Mr Melkman sent an email to me, a copy of which is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tab 22**.
50. At 11.03 pm on Monday, 18 December 2023, I sent an email to Mr Melkman, a copy of which is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tab 23**. The content of this email accurately reflects my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at that time.

TUESDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2023

51. At 6.48 am on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Ahern in response to my email from the previous night, to me, Mr Melkman and Mr Latimer. In this email Mr Ahern wrote *'Will await further advice'*. I understood this to mean that Mr Ahern was seeking advice from the ABC's People and Culture team because I had read the email from Mr Melkman received the evening before (see **Tab 22** of Exhibit COT-1) where he wrote (among other things) *'it would be worth looping in P&C'*. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tab 24**.
52. At 6.53 am on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Latimer, a copy of which is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tab 25**.
53. At 7.07 am on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Ahern, a copy of which is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tab 26**. As a result of reading that email, I was aware that the meeting to which it refers would occur, but I did not attend the meeting.

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54. At 11.10 am on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Melkman regarding the outcomes of their discussion. In that email, Mr Melkman advised that he did not consider Ms Lattouf had breached the ABC's Personal Use of Social Media Guidelines, that he did not believe *'there's any justification for pulling [Ms Lattouf] off air'*, and suggested ways to mitigate the risk while Ms Lattouf presented *Sydney Mornings* for the rest of the week. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 27**.
55. Having read and considered the contents of Mr Melkman's email with particular care, I came to the conclusion that I agreed with, and accepted, the advice set out in the email. I was conscious that this conclusion departed from the provisional view referred to in paragraph [45]. I came to this conclusion, partly as a consequence of accepting Mr Melkman's advice and partly as a consequence of learning that Ms Lattouf's social media activity had taken place before her engagement with the ABC commenced.
56. At 11.15 am on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I sent an email to Mr Melkman stating:

Thanks all, I think this makes sense to me. Steve, will leave it with you to take whatever proactive action you and the Sydney team think appropriate to manage and assist Antoinette. I will pass on this note, copy Simon to the MD as our position at this time. He may well hold a different view and we will need to pivot. But I think the advice provided below is sage and appropriate.

A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 28**. The content of this email accurately reflects my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at that time.

57. When I wrote that I would *'leave it with [Mr Ahern] to take whatever proactive action you and the Sydney team think appropriate to manage and assist Antoinette'*, I assumed that Mr Ahern would have regard to the mitigants suggested by Mr Melkman in the email referred to in paragraph [54]. One of Mr Melkman's suggestions was that Ms Lattouf be asked to *'keep a low profile'* on social media during the week of her engagement. In that regard, it continued to be my assumption that Mr Ahern had given Ms Lattouf, or caused her to be given, the instruction or direction not to post anything that would suggest that she was not impartial in relation to the Israel-Gaza war that is referred to in paragraphs [22(d)] and [23].



58. At 11.19 am on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I sent an email to Mr Anderson, copying Mr Melkman and Mr Latimer, writing:

David,

Simon has reviewed where we are with Antoinette. A summary of his views following discussions with our team are below, our view is that as Antoinette's contract finishes on Friday, we do not believe we should pull her off air at this time, mainly as she has not breached the personal use of social media guidelines that we are aware of, she has three shifts remaining and the link to the ABC is nascent due to her casual employment. Steve has been made aware that significantly more diligence is required for fill in hosts in the future.

Simon's advice which I support.

Based on the complaints we've seen thus far, I haven't identified any breaches of our personal use of social media guidelines. That's not a guarantee that she hasn't breached the guidelines – motivated complainants may trawl through her accounts and uncover something problematic that we haven't seen, and we should look into anything that complainants raise. But for the time being I don't believe there's any justification for pulling her off air.

Any assessment of her social media activity against the guidelines needs to take into account:

- *the short-term nature of her engagement (which limits the extent to which she would be perceived as a representative of the ABC, and the extent to which it's reasonable to impose the guidelines in an overly restrictive way, especially on activity that predates her engagement);*
- *the fact that she's done (and will continue to do) lots of non-ABC work (e.g. her reporting for Crikey last week) – i.e. she isn't solely associated with the ABC, and her personal social media activity reflects that; and*
- *the agreement that she won't be discussing the Israel-Gaza war on the program this week (which reduces the risk that something she's said on social media in connection to the conflict could come into conflict with her ABC role, or undermine perceptions of her impartiality on the issue – since she won't be covering it on the ABC anyway).*

A couple of steps you could consider taking: (1) you can ask Antoinette to keep a low profile on social media this week (for her own protection as much as anything else, given the campaign against her which appears to be growing – there were 8 complaints logged yesterday, and another 15 today), and (2) if you think it's warranted (personally I don't), you could ask her to switch her profiles to private/protected for the rest of the week. (These two options would also potentially worth considering for other fill-in presenters, depending on the issues they're dealing with and the nature of their social media activity.)

It's also worth reminding the Mornings team about being vigilant and prepared to use the dump button when Antoinette is taking talkback calls, as there's a risk that a motivated detractor could deceive their way on-air by saying they're going to talk about something innocuous, and then instead accost Antoinette about her views on Israel/Gaza etc. The team should be ready to dump any caller who does anything like that.

Please let Simon and I know if there are further options you would like to discuss

C

A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 29**. The content of this email accurately reflects my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at that time.

59. At 1.16 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I was copied in an email from Mr Ahern to Mr Latimer and Mr Melkman stating:

I can confirm that our Content Director Elizabeth has reiterated to Antoinette the importance of not talking about Israel-Gaza in her shows this week. She has also suggested that Antoinette may be wise not to post anything on her socials this week.

Elizabeth has also spoken to the production team to be particularly vigilant about using the dump button if needed.

A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 30**.

60. I read this email against the background of my assumption that Ms Lattouf had been given the instruction or direction not to post anything that would suggest that she was not impartial in relation to the Israel-Gaza war that is referred to in paragraphs [22(d)]

and [23]. I understood the 'reiteration' that is referred to in the first sentence of Mr Ahern's email to have been a reiteration of that instruction or direction. I understood the suggestion that is referred to in the second sentence of Mr Ahern's email to have been wider in scope than the instruction or direction, being a suggestion that Ms Lattouf not post anything at all on her social media during the week of her engagement. When I saw the words '*suggested that Antoinette may be wise not to post anything on her socials this week*', it seemed clear to me that an employee in the position of Ms Lattouf would, in the circumstances, understand such a suggestion to be a clear indication that the ABC was seriously concerned about her social media activity during the week of her engagement.

61. At 1.23 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I sent an email to Mr Ahern. I wrote:

Still having further discussions here Steve, standby.

A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 31**. I am unable now to recall what '*further discussions*' I was referring to, or to find any record of any such discussions. My best inference, having regard to what was under consideration at that time, is that the subject of the discussions was further mitigants to give effect to Mr Melkman's advice that Ms Lattouf be kept on air until the end of the week of her engagement.

62. At 3.28 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I received an email from Lauren Stokes, Executive Assistant to the Chair, which attached 29 emails containing complaints received by the ABC regarding Ms Lattouf. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 32**.

63. I read some but not all of the emails that were attached to Ms Stokes' email. I opened and read some of the emails, and as a result formed the view that the content of the complaints was essentially the same. I did not recognise any of the names of the members of the public who had apparently sent the emails that I read. I noticed that many of the complaints raised assertions that, by engaging Ms Lattouf, the ABC had contravened clause 4 of its Code of Practice. This was a complaint that was new to me, and one that I considered called for further consideration.

64. Accordingly, at 3.45 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I forwarded the email that I had received from Ms Stokes, including the 29 attachments, to Mr Melkman and Mr Latimer seeking their advice. In that email I wrote:

Many of [the complaint emails] make claim that by engaging Ms Lattouf, the ABC is in breach of clause 4 of the Code of Practice, calling into question the ABC's impartiality. I am not sure if this is correct, but clearly a hugely complex matter. Should the three of us get together this afternoon to discuss?

A copy of that email and its attachments is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 33**. The content of this email accurately reflects my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at that time.

65. At 3.57 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Melkman in response to my email. In his email, Mr Melkman provided advice that complaints that the ABC had contravened the Code of Practice were '*seriously misguided*'. Mr Melkman also referred us to an article published that day by womensagenda.com.au in which Ms Lattouf had attributed quotes. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 34**.

66. However, I read and considered the contents of Mr Melkman's advice with particular care, and came to the view that I agreed with, and accepted, that advice.

67. At 4.01 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I responded to Mr Melkman seeking to set up a meeting to discuss his advice. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 35**.

68. At some time in the afternoon on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, during a phone conversation, Mr Anderson asked me to prepare, or arrange for someone to prepare, a form of words that the ABC could use in responding to the emails that the ABC was receiving complaining about hiring Ms Lattouf. I do not recall at what time this phone conversation occurred and I don't recall what, if anything, else was discussed.

69. At some time in the afternoon on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I attended a Microsoft Teams meeting with Mr Melkman and Mr Latimer. During the meeting:

- (a) Mr Melkman reiterated the effect of the assessments of Ms Lattouf's conduct, and the complaints in relation to her, that he had given in the emails referred to in paragraphs [54] and [65].
- (b) There was discussion about a direction to Ms Lattouf not to post anything about the Israel Gaza war during the rest of the week of her engagement, and that Mr

Latimer was to do something about that. I cannot now remember whether it was agreed that Mr Latimer would take steps to ensure that Ms Lattouf had been given such a direction, or whether he was asked to ensure that she would be given such a direction. However, it is clear in my mind that the direction that was being discussed was a direction that Ms Lattouf not post anything about Israel-Gaza war during the rest of the week of her engagement.

- (c) We discussed additional support or 'protection' for Ms Lattouf in relation to avoiding the topic of Israel-Gaza being raised by talk-back callers. This was because we thought that she might be 'ambushed' by live callers raising issues about the war while she was presenting *Sydney Mornings*.
 - (d) It was agreed that a draft response to the complaint emails would be prepared, as Mr Anderson had requested. The response was to reflect Mr Melkman's advice (with which, as I have said, I agreed) that there had been no contravention of the Code of Practice. The task of preparing the draft response was assigned to, or taken on by, Mr Melkman.
70. At 4.49 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Melkman in which he provided a suggested draft response that the ABC Board and/or Managing Director's offices could send in response to complaints regarding Ms Lattouf. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 36**. Having read and considered the contents of Mr Melkman's email with particular care, I was satisfied that it accurately reflected my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at that time, and the contents of the discussion referred to in paragraph [69].
71. At 4.50 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I responded by email to Mr Melkman and Mr Latimer regarding who would send the suggested responses to complainants. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 37**.
72. At 6.19 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I sent an email to Mr Anderson, copying Mr Melkman, providing a draft response for any respondents regarding the complaints about Ms Lattouf. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 38**.
73. At 9.07 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Anderson. The body of the email said '*Just FYI – I'll talk to Ita tomorrow*' and forwarded an email that he

had received from Ms Buttrose and a complaint from a member of the public, regarding Ms Lattouf. In the email chain, Ms Buttrose said:

Has Antoinette been replaced. I am over getting emails about her

Regards

Ita

A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 39**.

74. I do not recall that I read the complaint from the member of the public at the bottom of the email chain at the time. I do not recognise the name or know that person.
75. When I received the email referred to in paragraph [73] and read what Ms Buttrose was writing to Mr Anderson, I understood that Ms Buttrose wanted Ms Lattouf to cease presenting *Sydney Mornings*. That did not reflect my position at that time, which was that Ms Lattouf's casual engagement would continue until its scheduled completion on Friday 22 December 2023. I did not consider that I was obliged to, or should, change my position to accommodate Ms Buttrose. My view was, and remained, that what should be done in relation to Ms Lattouf was a matter entirely for management, as to which I was responsible to Mr Anderson, and not to Ms Buttrose.
76. At 9.08 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I responded to Mr Anderson acknowledging his email. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 40**.
77. At 9.27 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, Mr Anderson forwarded to me his response to Ms Buttrose regarding her email forwarding the complaint from the member of the public. Mr Anderson wrote to Ms Buttrose:

Dear Ita,

Antoinette will finish up on Friday. It's a managed exit given the situation. I can explain more tomorrow.

I plan to respond to all those that have emailed on Friday afternoon.

Regards,

David



A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 41**.

78. In relation to Mr Anderson's email referred to in paragraph [77]:
- (a) I do not know what Mr Anderson meant by the phrase '*managed exit*'. I had not discussed the term '*managed exit*' or anything to that effect with Mr Anderson.
 - (b) However, Mr Anderson's statement that Ms Lattouf would '*finish up on Friday*' accurately reflected my own position at that time, which as I have said was that Ms Lattouf was a casual employee whose engagement would continue until its scheduled completion on Friday 22 December 2023. I had this position notwithstanding that, as I have set out in paragraph [75], I understood that Ms Buttrose wanted Ms Lattouf to cease presenting *Sydney Mornings*. As I have said, I did not consider that I was obliged to, or should, change my position to accommodate Ms Buttrose.
79. At 9.29 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I responded to Mr Anderson by an email a copy of which is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 42**. My response reflected the state of mind described in subparagraph [78(b)].
80. At 9.34 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I received an email from Emma Burnett, Executive Assistant at the Managing Director's Office, regarding arrangements for forwarding complaints regarding Ms Lattouf to me. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 43**.
81. At 9.36 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I responded by email to Ms Burnett asking for complaints regarding Ms Lattouf to be provided to Mr Latimer, Mr Ahern and me by email. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 44**. I have no recollection that Ms Burnett acted on this request.
82. At 10.10 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Anderson. The body of the email said 'FYI' and forwarded an email from Ms Buttrose to Mr Anderson where Ms Buttrose wrote to Mr Anderson:

I have a whole clutch more of complaints . Why can't she come down with flu? Or Covid. Or a stomach upset? We owe her nothing, we are copping criticism because she wasn't honest when she was appointed.

Managed exit. Really.

I don't like emailing you late but I am wrapping present.

We should be in damage control not managed exits David.

Ita

A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 45**.

83. When I received the email referred to at paragraph [82] and read what Ms Buttrose was writing to Mr Anderson, my view that Ms Buttrose wanted Ms Lattouf to cease presenting *Sydney Mornings* was reinforced. However, as I have said, that did not reflect my position at that time, and, for the reasons that I have given, I did not consider that I was obliged to, or should, change my position to accommodate Ms Buttrose.
84. At 10.12 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I responded to Mr Anderson by an email in which I wrote:

The blow back will be phenomenal. I recommend we hold until Friday. No comment on the war, it's not related, no breach of our own editorial protocols or the act. It is not perfect, but it's the right course of action at this point.

A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 46**. The content of this email accurately reflects my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at that time.

85. At 10.42 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, Mr Anderson responded to me by email, writing:

I know that – hold the position, just sharing the pain.

A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 47**. I understood from this email that Mr Anderson supported my position that Ms Lattouf should stay on air until the end of her scheduled week of presenting.

86. At 10.45 pm on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I responded to Mr Anderson by email, writing:

Sorry boss.

A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 48**. I intended this email as an acknowledgement of Mr Anderson's statement about '*sharing the pain*'.

WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2023

87. At 11.07 am on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Anderson, a copy of which is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tab 49**. Based on that email, I understood that Mr Anderson was concerned that Mr Ahern had not properly checked whether Ms Lattouf could reasonably have been perceived as not being impartial in relation to the Israel-Gaza war when deciding to hire her to fill-in on *Sydney Mornings*. I shared this concern.
88. At 11.14 am on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, I responded to Mr Anderson by email, a copy of which is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tab 50**.
89. Between 11.13 am and 11.32 am on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, I received emails from Ms Buttrose providing copies of more complaints received by the ABC in relation to Ms Lattouf being on ABC Radio Sydney:
- (a) at 11.13 am, I received an email from Ms Buttrose with subject line '*More complaints Antoinette 702*'. The email attached 12 emails containing complaints from members of the public about Ms Lattouf;
 - (b) at 11.15 am, I responded to Ms Buttrose;
 - (c) at 11.19 am, I received a second email from Ms Buttrose, attaching another five emails containing complaints from members of the public about Ms Lattouf;
 - (d) at 11.24 am, I received a third email from Ms Buttrose with subject line '*The complaints keep coming Antoinette 702*', attaching another three emails containing complaints from members of the public about Ms Lattouf;
 - (e) at 11.24 am, I responded to Ms Buttrose;
 - (f) at 11.25 am, Ms Buttrose responded to me '*It goes with the job Chris.....I think we will keep getting these complaints until Antoinette leaves*';
 - (g) at 11.26 am, I responded to Ms Buttrose;
 - (h) at 11.27 am, Ms Buttrose forwarded to me a further complaint email; and
 - (i) at 11.32 am, Ms Buttrose forwarded to me two more complaint emails with subject line '*This is the lot for now Chris...Ita*'.



A copy of each of those emails is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tabs 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59**.

90. I recall that I opened only one or two of the complaints attached to Ms Buttrose's emails to me on Wednesday, 20 December 2023. From what I read, I could see that Ms Buttrose had already responded to the members of the public indicating that the email had been provided to me and that I was dealing with the matter.
91. I did not know why Ms Buttrose had responded to the complainants naming me as the person who was going to deal with the matter.
92. At 11.31 am on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, I sent an email to Mr Ahern, a copy of which is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tab 60**. The content of this email accurately reflected my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at that time.
93. At 11.33 am on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, Mr Ahern responded to me and Mr Latimer by an email, a copy of which is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tab 61**.
94. At 12.19 pm on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Latimer. In that email Mr Latimer advised that it appeared Ms Lattouf had made social media posts regarding Israel and Gaza late on Tuesday, 19 December 2023. Mr Latimer wrote:

Steve,

I have just seen Insta story posts by Antoinette regarding Israel-Gaza posted 18-hours ago.

The clear instructions were to direct Antoinette not to post to socials for the rest of this week.

Simon, Chris, Steve – can you please review the Insta stories and then let's chat as soon as possible this afternoon?

Thanks,

Ben

A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tab 62**.

95. Shortly after receiving that email from Mr Latimer, I spoke to Mr Latimer by telephone. During that conversation, Mr Latimer suggested that that Ms Lattouf's Instagram story

posts on 19 December 2023 could be considered a breach of the ABC's editorial guidelines, or a breach of a direction not to post anything on social media while she was presenting *Sydney Mornings*, or both. I asked Mr Latimer to consider whether Ms Lattouf's conduct did in fact amount to any such breaches, and to arrange a meeting with Mr Ahern, Mr Melkman and me to discuss the next steps.

96. I do not recall that at the time I perceived any difference between the direction described in Mr Latimer's email (see paragraph [94]), and my understanding of the direction that I have referred to in paragraph [60].
97. At 12.23 pm on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, I sent an email to Mr Latimer, Mr Melkman and Mr Ahern asking Mr Latimer to send a screenshot of the posts in question. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 63**.
98. At 12.29 pm on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, I sent a text message to Mr Anderson where I wrote:

Looks like she has breached editorial impartiality. We are clarifying now and I will call you with a response. If correct she will be stood down.

I expected that Mr Anderson would understand from the context that by 'she' I was referring to Ms Lattouf. The content of this text accurately reflected my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at that time. Photographs of text messages between myself and David Anderson on 20 December 2023, as shown on my iPad, are in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 64**.

99. At 12.42 pm on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Nick Leys, ABC Head of Communications. Mr Leys wrote '*clearly complaints have been shared*' and forwarded an email that Mr Leys had received at 11.24 am from Ms Sophie Elsworth, a journalist at *The Australian* newspaper asking questions of the ABC regarding Ms Lattouf. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 65**.

100. At 12.43 pm on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, I sent an email to Mr Leys stating:

Across.

It looks like AL has now breached abc editorial guidelines. Ben reviewing, but if she has we will have to stand her down. If we do that we should do it before the story runs.

C

A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 66**. The content of this email accurately reflects my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at that time.

Teams Meeting on Wednesday, 20 December 2023

101. Between approximately 12.43 pm and 12.58 pm on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, I attended a meeting with Mr Latimer, Mr Melkman and Mr Ahern via Microsoft Teams (the **Teams Meeting**).
102. At some time before or during the Teams Meeting I looked at screenshots of the Instagram story posts referred to in paragraph [94], but I can no longer recall when I did so, or by what means it was made available to me.
103. Early in the Teams Meeting, there was discussion about whether the making of the Instagram story posts referred to in paragraph [94] gave rise to a breach by Ms Lattouf of the ABC's policies in relation to impartiality. As to this question, I formed a view that Ms Lattouf's conduct had breached the Personal Use of Social Media Guidelines. My recollection is that there was not a consensus about this question in the Teams Meeting.
104. The discussion then turned to the question of whether Ms Lattouf's conduct in making the posts referred to in paragraph [94] involved a breach of a direction given to her by the ABC. In this regard, my view was that Ms Lattouf had been directed not to post anything in relation to the Israel-Gaza war during the week of her engagement.
105. As to this, I said words to the effect of, *'In my view, Antoinette was directed not to post anything about the Israel-Gaza war this week, and she has clearly breached that direction'*.
106. I asked each person in the Teams Meeting whether they agreed with my view, and each person said that they did so.

107. The discussion then turned to what should be done as a consequence of that the view that Ms Lattouf had breached a direction not to post anything about the Israel-Gaza war. Two options were discussed:
- (a) leave Ms Lattouf on air for the remainder of the week; or
 - (b) take Ms Lattouf off air, such that she would not present *Sydney Mornings* on Thursday, 21 December 2023 or Friday, 22 December 2023.
108. After both options had been discussed, I said words to the effect of, '*I consider that taking Ms Lattouf off air is the best course of action in the circumstances.*'
109. Again, I asked each person in the Teams Meeting whether they agreed with my view, and each person said that they did so.
110. I specifically remember asking Mr Ahern a question to the effect of: '*Steve, are you comfortable after reviewing all the information that we need to take her off-air?*' He replied with words to the effect of, '*I am comfortable taking her off air.*'
111. I also specifically remember asking Mr Ahern whether he had '*checked the contract*', and that he said that he had done so.
112. Having considered the contributions of the other participants in the Teams Meeting, I made the decision that Ms Lattouf should be taken off air, such that she would not present *Sydney Mornings* on Thursday, 21 December 2023 or Friday, 22 December 2023.
113. In making that decision, I had the following six considerations in mind, and was motivated only by those considerations. First, the view that Ms Lattouf had not complied with a direction not to post anything about the Israel-Gaza war. Second, as a consequence of the view that she had failed to comply with that direction, I did not have confidence that Ms Lattouf would not say something on air that could reasonably be perceived as not being impartial in relation to the Israel-Gaza war. Third, my view was that she had contravened the Personal Use of Social Media Guidelines. Fourth, my concern that Mr Ahern did not have control of the situation, which exacerbated my lack of confidence in Ms Lattouf. Fifth, my consciousness that, at that time, issues pertaining to the Israel-Gaza war were highly contentious. Sixth, I considered that the ABC was not obliged to put anyone on air; in other words, my view was it was always within the discretion of the ABC to decide that a presenter or programme would not be aired. I



considered that the first five considerations that I have identified in this paragraph justified the exercise of that discretion in this case.

114. I did not consider, or in any way take into account, anything that I knew about the fact or content of any political opinions that Ms Lattouf had or may have had, or her race or national extraction (including that Ms Lattouf has a Lebanese and/or Arab and/or Middle Eastern heritage and that she is a descendant of foreign immigrants). None of those matters were reasons for the decision referred to in paragraph [112].
115. None of the participants in the Teams Meeting spoke about or mentioned “sacking”, “dismissing” or “terminating” Ms Lattouf.
116. My assumption was that Ms Lattouf would be paid in full for her engagement, including for the two shifts that she would not present. I do not recall that there was any discussion about this; for my part, the possibility of not paying her never entered my mind.

Messages and conversation with Mr Anderson

117. As I had been emailing and messaging with Mr Anderson about Ms Lattouf over the course of the previous two days and he had, earlier that morning, sent an email to Ms Buttrose saying that the ABC would be keeping her on air, my view was that I should let Mr Anderson know that it had been decided that Ms Lattouf should be taken off air, such that she would not present *Sydney Mornings* on Thursday, 21 December 2023 or Friday, 22 December 2023. I wanted to make sure Mr Anderson was not “blindsided” by the decision to take her off air when he had said to Ms Buttrose that Ms Lattouf would be staying on air for the week.
118. Shortly after the Teams Meeting ended, I sent two text messages to Mr Anderson:
- (a) At 1.00 pm on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, I wrote:

‘D, confirming my view is that she has breached our editorial policies whilst in our employment. She also failed to follow a direction from her producer not to post anything whilst working with the ABC. As a result of this, I have no option but to stand her down. Call me if you can, but if not possible, I will action within the hour.’

(b) At 1.17 pm on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, I wrote:

'Aus are going to run a yarn. I'm going to action this now and try and beat the story.'

The content of these text messages accurately reflected my state of mind in relation to their subject matters at that time. These text messages are in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 64**.

119. In my text messages to Mr Anderson, by using the words *'stand her down'* I was referring to taking Ms Lattouf off air, such that she would not present for Thursday 21 December 2023 or Friday 22 December 2023 which are the only shifts that Ms Lattouf was rostered to present at the time.
120. Soon after I sent the second of the two text messages to Mr Anderson, I received a telephone call from Mr Anderson. My recollection is that he told me that he was at lunch with Ms Buttrose at the time. We had a brief conversation. I estimate that it went for no more than one minute. During the conversation, I explained to Mr Anderson that Ms Lattouf had posted on social media about the Israel-Gaza war, even though she had been told not to. Mr Anderson responded by saying "okay" or "alright".
121. At or around 1.19 pm on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, I spoke on the phone with Mr Latimer. In that conversation:
- (a) I directed Mr Latimer to action the decision by asking Sydney Local Radio Management to take Ms Lattouf off air, such that she would not present on *Sydney Mornings* on Thursday 21 December 2023 or Friday 22 December 2023.
- (b) I used words to the effect of, *'I have briefed the MD, we should now take her off-air'*.
- (c) We did not discuss payment for the final two shifts and at no time did I mention *'dismissal', 'termination' or 'letting [Antoinette] go'*.
122. At 1.43 pm on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, I sent a text message to Mr Anderson stating:
- 'Actioned. Statement going out. I have requested a full review as to how she was hired in the first place. Apologies again.'*

That text message is in **Exhibit COT-1 at Tab 64**.

123. At 2.57 pm on Wednesday, 20 December 2023, I received an email from Mr Ahern in which Mr Ahern summarised a conversation that had occurred between him and Ms Lattouf earlier that afternoon. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tab 67**.

THURSDAY, 21 DECEMBER 2023

124. On Thursday, 21 December 2023, I wrote an email to myself where I described some of my recollection of events and matters relating to Ms Lattouf with subject line: *'File Note COT December 23'*. A copy of that email is in **Exhibit COT-1** at **Tab 68**. This email came about by me opening a draft email earlier in the week, and jotting down some notes or points about the events, I do not recall when I wrote the dot points in the email. As best I recall, I then opened the same draft email and wrote the numbered paragraphs either on the afternoon of Wednesday 20 December 2023 or on Thursday 21 December 2023, and then sent it to myself.

Affirmed by the deponent
at Melbourne
in Victoria
on 11 October 2024
Before me:

)
)
)
)
)



Signature of deponent
Christopher Nicholas Oliver-Taylor



Signature of witness

Gabrielle Marree Shooter Wilson

An Australian Legal Practitioner within the meaning of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (NSW)

This affidavit was signed in counterpart and witnessed over audio visual link in accordance with section 14G of the *Electronic Transactions Act 2000* (NSW).

Form 59
Rule 29.02(1)

Exhibit
COT-1

No. NSD 189 of 2024

Federal Court of Australia
District Registry: New South Wales
Division: Fair Work

Antoinette Lattouf

Applicant

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Respondent

This is the exhibit marked "**COT-1**" referred to in the Affidavit of **Christopher Nicholas Oliver-Taylor** affirmed on 11 October 2024 in Sydney, New South Wales.

Before me:



Signature of witness

Name of witness: Gabrielle Marree Shooter Wilson

Qualification of witness: An Australian Legal Practitioner within the meaning of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (NSW)

This affidavit was signed in counterpart and witnessed over audio visual link in accordance with section 14G of the *Electronic Transactions Act* (NSW).

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Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Respondent

This is the exhibit marked "**COT-1**" referred to in the Affidavit of **Christopher Nicholas Oliver-Taylor** affirmed on 11 October 2024 in Sydney, New South Wales.

Before me:



Signature of witness

Name of witness: Gabrielle Marree Shooter Wilson

Qualification of witness: An Australian Legal Practitioner within the meaning of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (NSW)

This affidavit was signed in counterpart and witnessed over audio visual link in accordance with section 14G of the *Electronic Transactions Act* (NSW).

Index to Exhibit COT-1

Tab	Date	Document
Monday, 18 December 2023		
1.	18 December 2023, 1.35 pm	Email from D. Anderson to C. Oliver-Taylor and J. Stevens copy S. Melkman
2.	18 December 2023, 1.35 pm	Email from D. Anderson to C. Oliver-Taylor and J. Stevens copy S. Melkman
3.	18 December 2023, 1.36 pm	Email from D. Anderson to C. Oliver-Taylor and J. Stevens copy S. Melkman
4.	18 December 2023, 1.40 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to D. Anderson copy J. Stevens and S. Melkman
5.	18 December 2023, 1.49 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to S. Ahern, copy B. Latimer, S. Melkman and S. Koloff
6.	18 December 2023, 1.51 pm	Email from S. Ahern to C. Oliver-Taylor, copy B. Latimer, S. Melkman and S. Koloff
7.	18 December 2023, 1.55 pm	Email from S. Koloff to S. Ahern and C. Oliver-Taylor, copy B. Latimer and S. Melkman
8.	18 December 2023, 1.57 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to S. Koloff and S. Ahern, copy S. Melkman and B. Latimer
9.	18 December 2023, 2.53 pm	Email from S. Melkman to S. Koloff, S. Ahern and C. Oliver-Taylor, copy B. Latimer
10.	18 December 2023, 3.32 pm	Email from S. Ahern to C. Oliver-Taylor copy B. Latimer, S. Melkman and S. Koloff
11.	18 December 2023, 3.43 pm	Email from S. Koloff to C. Oliver-Taylor and B. Latimer
12.	18 December 2023, 3.45 pm	Email from S. Ahern to S. Melkman, S. Koloff and C. Oliver-Taylor, copy B. Latimer
13.	18 December 2023, 3.48 pm	Email from S. Melkman to S. Ahern, S. Koloff and C. Oliver-Taylor, copy B. Latimer
14.	18 December 2023, 3.54 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to S. Melkman, S. Ahern and S. Koloff, copy B. Latimer
15.	18 December 2023, 4.07 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to D. Anderson, copy J. Stevens, S. Melkman, B. Latimer
16.	18 December 2023, 4.07 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to S. Ahern, S. Koloff, S. Melkman and B. Latimer
17.	18 December 2023	Text messages between D. Anderson and C. Oliver-Taylor

Tab	Date	Document
18.	18 December 2023, 8.51 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to S. Ahern, B. Latimer copy S. Melkman attaching screenshot
19.	18 December 2023, 8.57 pm	Email from S. Ahern to C. Oliver-Taylor and B. Latimer copy S. Melkman
20.	18 December 2023, 9.01 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to S. Ahern and B. Latimer copy S. Melkman
21.	18 December 2023, 9.15 pm	Email from S. Ahern to C. Oliver-Taylor and B. Latimer copy S. Melkman
22.	18 December 2023, 11.00 pm	Email from S. Melkman to S. Ahern, C. Oliver-Taylor and B. Latimer
23.	18 December 2023, 11.03 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to S. Melkman, S. Ahern and B. Latimer
Tuesday, 19 December 2023		
24.	19 December 2023, 6.48 am	Email from S. Ahern to C. Oliver-Taylor, B. Latimer and S. Melkman
25.	19 December 2023, 6.53 am	Email from B. Latimer to S. Ahern, S. Melkman and C. Oliver-Taylor
26.	19 December 2023, 7.07 am	Email from S. Ahern to B. Latimer, S. Melkman and C. Oliver-Taylor
27.	19 December 2023, 11.10 am	Email from S. Melkman to S. Ahern and B. Latimer, copy C. Oliver-Taylor
28.	19 December 2023, 11.15 am	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to S. Melkman, S. Ahern and B. Latimer
29.	19 December 2023, 11.19 am	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to D. Anderson copy S. Melkman and B. Latimer
30.	19 December 2023, 1.16 pm	Email from S. Ahern to B. Latimer and S. Melkman copy C. Oliver-Taylor
31.	19 December 2023, 1.23 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to S. Ahern, S. Melkman and B. Latimer
32.	19 December 2023, 3.28 pm	Email from L. Stokes to C. Oliver-Taylor attaching 29 emails
33.	19 December 2023, 3.45 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to S. Melkman copy B. Latimer attaching 29 emails
34.	19 December 2023, 3.57 pm	Email from S. Melkman to C. Oliver-Taylor copy B. Latimer
35.	19 December 2023, 4.01 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to S. Melkman and B. Latimer

Tab	Date	Document
36.	19 December 2023, 4.49 pm	Email from S. Melkman to C. Oliver-Taylor and B. Latimer
37.	19 December 2023, 4.50 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to S. Melkman and B. Latimer
38.	19 December 2023, 6.19 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to D. Anderson copy S. Melkman
39.	19 December 2023, 9.07 pm	Email from D. Anderson to C. Oliver-Taylor forwarding email from I. Buttrose
40.	19 December 2023, 9.08 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to D. Anderson
41.	19 December 2023, 9.27 pm	Email from D. Anderson to C. Oliver-Taylor forwarding response from D. Anderson to I. Buttrose
42.	19 December 2023, 9.29 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to D. Anderson
43.	19 December 2023, 9.34 pm	Email from E. Burnett to C. Oliver-Taylor
44.	19 December 2023, 9.36 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to E. Burnett
45.	19 December 2023, 10.10 pm	Email from D. Anderson to C. Oliver-Taylor forwarding email from I. Buttrose
46.	19 December 2023, 10.12 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to D. Anderson
47.	19 December 2023, 10.42 pm	Email from D. Anderson to C. Oliver-Taylor
48.	19 December 2023, 10.45 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to D. Anderson
Wednesday, 20 December 2023		
49.	20 December 2023, 11.07 am	Email from D. Anderson to C. Oliver-Taylor
50.	20 December 2023, 11.14 am	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to D. Anderson
51.	20 December 2023, 11.13 am	Email from I. Buttrose to C. Oliver-Taylor attaching 12 emails
52.	20 December 2023, 11.15 am	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to I. Buttrose
53.	20 December 2023, 11.19 am	Email from I. Buttrose to C. Oliver-Taylor attaching 5 emails

Tab	Date	Document
54.	20 December 2023, 11.24 am	Email from I. Buttrose to C. Oliver-Taylor attaching 3 emails
55.	20 December 2023, 11.24 am	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to I. Buttrose
56.	20 December 2023, 11.25 am	Email from I. Buttrose to C. Oliver-Taylor
57.	20 December 2023, 11.26 am	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to I. Buttrose
58.	20 December 2023, 11.27 am	Email from I. Buttrose to C. Oliver-Taylor forwarding 1 email
59.	20 December 2023, 11.32 am	Email from I. Buttrose to C. Oliver-Taylor attaching 2 emails
60.	20 December 2023, 11.31 am	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to S. Ahern copy B. Latimer
61.	20 December 2023, 11.33 am	Email from S. Ahern to C. Oliver-Taylor
62.	20 December 2023, 12.19 pm	Email from B. Latimer to S. Ahern, C. Oliver-Taylor and S. Melkman
63.	20 December 2023, 12.23 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to B. Latimer, S. Ahern and S. Melkman
64.	20 December 2023, 12.29 pm	Text messages between C. Oliver-Taylor and D. Anderson
65.	20 December 2023, 12.42 pm	Email from N. Leys to C. Oliver-Taylor, B. Latimer copy L Todd and N. Tugwell
66.	20 December 2023, 12.43 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to N. Leys and B. Latimer copy L Todd and N. Tugwell
67.	20 December 2023, 2.57 pm	Email from S. Ahern to C. Oliver-Taylor and B. Latimer summarising conversation with Ms Lattouf
Thursday, 21 December 2023		
68.	21 December 2023, 4.20 pm	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to himself

TAB-1

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:35 PM
To: Justin Stevens; Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Simon Melkman
Subject: FW: Antoinette Lattouf

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 18 December 2023 at 12:40 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>, Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

Dear Mr Anderson and the ABC board,

I would like to understand how Ms Lattouf is the correspond for the ABC for reporting on the Middle East. She is not impartial and, as ABC is a public broadcasting company which is funded by Australian taxpayers.

Furthermore, she has incorrectly claimed that the Jewish community said "gas the Jews" was a lie and there have now been 4 statutory declarations by independent witnesses (some of whom are not part of the Jewish community) attesting to this.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Ms Lattouf to report on this, there is no impartiality. ABC is in breach of their obligations by allowing her to continue to report on the conflict.

Please advise how you intend to handle this matter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IMPORTANT FRAUD ALERT – The Law Society of NSW has reported an increasing occurrence of fraudsters intercepting emails and inserting their bank account details in place of the intended account details. To mitigate this risk, you must not deposit or transfer funds using account details provided by us (or anyone else) via email only. If you receive such an email, phone our office and verify the account details first.

TAB-2

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:35 PM
To: Justin Stevens; Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Simon Melkman; Managing Director's Office
Subject: FW: ABC - Antoinette Lattouf

Both,

I've started to get many complaints about Antoinette. I'll send some others. I think Antoinette is News but I can see some science based reporting too for Catalyst.

Can someone please look into it.

Thanks,

David

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 18 December 2023 at 12:35 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Cc: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: ABC - Antoinette Lattouf

Dear Mr Anderson and the ABC Board

Please find below an impassioned letter I wrote earlier to Minister Rowland. I have forwarded it to all of you in the hope that you can enforce your own Code of Practice by both recognising the problematic nature of allowing this person to continue to use the ABC as a platform for her spouting her biased views, incitement to prejudice, and consequently fragmentation of social cohesion. Please do not give her 'air'.

Yours

[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: ABC - Antoinette Lattouf
Date: 18 December 2023 at 12:10:31 pm AEDT
To: Minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au

Dear Minister Rowland

Just wondering why is it that the ABC has chosen to defy its own Code of Practice. According to Clause 4 the ABC has a statutory duty to ensure that the gathering and presentation of news and information is impartial according to the recognised standards of objective journalism.

Why is it then the ABC has employed Antoinette Lattouf to host the morning ABC Sydney show? This person has very loudly, clearly and widely announced her partiality regarding the current crisis in the Middle East. Most recently she has cast doubt on the veracity of the Sydney Opera House

demonstration where the vile antisemitic chants were recorded. The constant theme of her recent posts have been all slanted into the condemnation of Israel, dissemination of false statistics, and the promulgation of antizionist [aka antisemitic] rhetoric. There has been no equivalent decrying of the brutality of Hamas's October 7 bloodbath, nor of the rape and mutilation of women and girls, not condemning the taking and holding of hostages in unspeakable conditions or calls for their release. There is no equivalence in this and clearly no balanced or impartial view.

The tragedy of the current Israel-Gaza war is overwhelming and what is even more distressing in Australia is the social divisiveness and increase in reported antisemitic incidents [over 750% since October 7 that are a consequence.

No one is winning in this tragic set of events but the harmony of the multicultural Australia we all aspire to reside in is also being broken. In part due to the agitation and bias being disseminated by people like Antoinette Lattouf. More concerning is that she is using the ABC to bolster her credibility and exposure. The ABC is then used as a platform for her to spread and promulgate hatred and social dissension.

Please live up to the Honourable part of your title and ensure that the ABC abides by its own Code of Practice.

Please do not allow this woman unfettered access to a wider audience than she already has. Lets all try and return to the civil society which we had.

Yours in hope

██████████

TAB-3

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:36 PM
To: Justin Stevens; Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Simon Melkman
Subject: FW: ABC 702 Sydney

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 18 December 2023 at 1:34 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: ABC 702 Sydney

Dear Mr Anderson,

I am writing to you regarding the ABC's, the national broadcaster's, choice of acting morning radio show host on ABC 702 Sydney.

I am a taxpayer and regular audience member of this program and am well versed in how popular this show is, normally hosted by Sarah Macdonald and what a widespread audience it has.

Given the very difficult times we are experiencing currently due to the Israeli - Gaza war, and the various sensitivities held by both the Israeli/Jewish and Palestinian/Arab communities it would seem Ms Lattouff was not the best selection as the summer host.

I am talking specifically about her remarks on social media regarding the Opera House debacle on October 9th, a worldwide renowned event which has cast a very negative light on our city and country. Ms Lattouff in her widely broadcasted comments has suggested that there was some questionable accounts of the hate-speech calls 'fuck the Jews' and 'gas the Jews' and had not been verified.

I personally am affronted by her tasteless comments and subsequently the ABC's choice of summer host.

I have suffered a family loss in the war which resulted in me attending the Opera House that night, specifically to see the Israeli flag projected on the Opera House as a sign of solidarity and well before the war erupted. Such projections were staged publicly in many, many cities around the world including Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane.

The projection was cancelled at the scheduled time due to the unruly and increasingly violent behaviour of the Palestinian crowd and their supporters.

I personally found this event absolutely petrifying. Despite the very large police presence I did not feel confident that my safety would be assured.

My request from one of the policeman to move to a safer spot was met with an abrasive and negative response. I left straight away.

I have found Ms Lattouff's anti-Jewish and Israelophobic attitude to the occurrence of events on October 9th abhorrent.

Her insulting words and insinuations are not only immensely triggering but bring into question my right as a Jewish Israeli Australian to enjoy public events in safe space.

As it stands I will be switching to another station during the summer period as I would be worried that Ms Lattouff's

insensitive remarks and observations would be extremely upsetting to me.

Unless you believe in her assertions negating the Opera House incident and questioning first hand accounts of the occurrence, I would be urging you to liaise with the ABC management to withdraw this person from the show.

All of 'our' ABC's audiences should be afforded that right.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TAB-4

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:40 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Justin Stevens
Cc: Simon Melkman; Managing Director's Office
Subject: RE: ABC - Antoinette Lattouf

I'll take this David, she is filling in for Sarah MacDonald on Sydney Mornings. I will speak to the team about this and come back to you with some thinking.

Chris

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:35 PM
To: Justin Stevens <Stevens.Justin@abc.net.au>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Managing Director's Office <managingdirectorsoffice@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: ABC - Antoinette Lattouf

Both,

I've started to get many complaints about Antoinette. I'll send some others. I think Antoinette is News but I can see some science based reporting too for Catalyst.

Can someone please look into it.

Thanks,

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From: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 18 December 2023 at 12:35 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Cc: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: ABC - Antoinette Lattouf

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[REDACTED]

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Yours in hope

██████████

TAB-5

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:49 PM
To: Steve Ahern
Cc: Ben Latimer; Simon Melkman; Sashka Koloff
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

Hi Steve,

I have been forwarded a number of complaints this morning from the MD's office about Antoinette Lattouf and her position on the Israel/Gaza war. You may need to seek Simon Melkman or Sashka's advice here, but can we ensure that Antoinette is not and has not been posting anything that would suggest she is not impartial, I am concerned her public views may mean that she is in conflict with our own editorial policies, but Simon and Sashka would be able to advise. Can we also advise why we selected Antoinette as stand in host?

I am not suggesting we make any changes at this time, but the perceived or actual lack of impartiality of her views are concerning.

Thanks Steve

C



Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer



We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

abc.net.au

TAB-6

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:51 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Ben Latimer; Simon Melkman; Sashka Koloff
Subject: Re: Antoinette Lattouf

Thanks Chris,

I will get on to this immediately and let you know.

Steve



Steve Ahern
A/Head ABC Capital City Radio Network

ahern.steve@abc.net.au
W <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/radio>
[abc.net.au]

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:49 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>
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[\[abc.net.au\]](http://abc.net.au)

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer



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TAB-7

From: Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:55 PM
To: Steve Ahern; Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Ben Latimer; Simon Melkman
Subject: Re: Antoinette Lattouf

Thanks, Chris.

Happy to assist. I know Antoinette quite well. If you can share substance of the complaints, might give a better sense of the concerns raised.

Thanks
Sashka

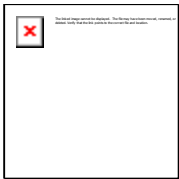
Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:51:05 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette Lattouf

Thanks Chris,

I will get on to this immediately and let you know.

Steve



Steve Ahern
A/Head ABC Capital City Radio Network

E ahern.steve@abc.net.au
W <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/radio>
[\[abc.net.au\]](https://www.abc.net.au)

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:49 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>
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Chief Content Officer



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[\[abc.net.au\]](http://abc.net.au)

TAB-8

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:57 PM
To: Sashka Koloff; Steve Ahern
Cc: Simon Melkman; Ben Latimer
Subject: Complaints
Attachments: FW ABC 702 Sydney; FW Antoinette Lattouf; FW ABC - Antoinette Lattouf

Here you are team, obviously in confidence.

Many thanks

Chris

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:36 PM
To: Justin Stevens; Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Simon Melkman
Subject: FW: ABC 702 Sydney

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 18 December 2023 at 1:34 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: ABC 702 Sydney

Dear Mr Anderson,

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I am a taxpayer and regular audience member of this program and am well versed in how popular this show is, normally hosted by Sarah Macdonald and what a widespread audience it has.

Given the very difficult times we are experiencing currently due to the Israeli - Gaza war, and the various sensitivities held by both the Israeli/Jewish and Palestinian/Arab communities it would seem Ms Lattouff was not the best selection as the summer host.

I am talking specifically about her remarks on social media regarding the Opera House debacle on October 9th, a worldwide renowned event which has cast a very negative light on our city and country. Ms Lattouff in her widely broadcasted comments has suggested that there was some questionable accounts of the hate-speech calls 'fuck the Jews' and 'gas the Jews' and had not been verified.

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I have suffered a family loss in the war which resulted in me attending the Opera House that night, specifically to see the Israeli flag projected on the Opera House as a sign of solidarity and well before the war erupted.

Such projections were staged publicly in many, many cities around the world including Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane.

The projection was cancelled at the scheduled time due to the unruly and increasingly violent behaviour of the Palestinian crowd and their supporters.

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Her insulting words and insinuations are not only immensely triggering but bring into question my right as a Jewish Israeli Australian to enjoy public events in safe space.

As it stands I will be switching to another station during the summer period as I would be worried that Ms Lattouff's

insensitive remarks and observations would be extremely upsetting to me.

Unless you believe in her assertions negating the Opera House incident and questioning first hand accounts of the occurrence, I would be urging you to liaise with the ABC management to withdraw this person from the show.

All of 'our' ABC's audiences should be afforded that right.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted address]

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:35 PM
To: Justin Stevens; Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Simon Melkman
Subject: FW: Antoinette Lattouf

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 18 December 2023 at 12:40 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>, Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

Dear Mr Anderson and the ABC board,

I would like to understand how Ms Lattouf is the correspond for the ABC for reporting on the Middle East. She is not impartial and, as ABC is a public broadcasting company which is funded by Australian taxpayers.

Furthermore, she has incorrectly claimed that the Jewish community said "gas the Jews" was a lie and there have now been 4 statutory declarations by independent witnesses (some of whom are not part of the Jewish community) attesting to this.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Ms Lattouf to report on this, there is no impartiality. ABC is in breach of their obligations by allowing her to continue to report on the conflict.

Please advise how you intend to handle this matter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IMPORTANT FRAUD ALERT – The Law Society of NSW has reported an increasing occurrence of fraudsters intercepting emails and inserting their bank account details in place of the intended account details. To mitigate this risk, you must not deposit or transfer funds using account details provided by us (or anyone else) via email only. If you receive such an email, phone our office and verify the account details first.

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:35 PM
To: Justin Stevens; Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Simon Melkman; Managing Director's Office
Subject: FW: ABC - Antoinette Lattouf

Both,

I've started to get many complaints about Antoinette. I'll send some others. I think Antoinette is News but I can see some science based reporting too for Catalyst.

Can someone please look into it.

Thanks,

David

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 18 December 2023 at 12:35 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Cc: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: ABC - Antoinette Lattouf

Dear Mr Anderson and the ABC Board

Please find below an impassioned letter I wrote earlier to Minister Rowland. I have forwarded it to all of you in the hope that you can enforce your own Code of Practice by both recognising the problematic nature of allowing this person to continue to use the ABC as a platform for her spouting her biased views, incitement to prejudice, and consequently fragmentation of social cohesion. Please do not give her 'air'.

Yours

[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: ABC - Antoinette Lattouf
Date: 18 December 2023 at 12:10:31 pm AEDT
To: Minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au

Dear Minister Rowland

Just wondering why is it that the ABC has chosen to defy its own Code of Practice. According to Clause 4 the ABC has a statutory duty to ensure that the gathering and presentation of news and information is impartial according to the recognised standards of objective journalism.

Why is it then the ABC has employed Antoinette Lattouf to host the morning ABC Sydney show? This person has very loudly, clearly and widely announced her partiality regarding the current crisis in the Middle East. Most recently she has cast doubt on the veracity of the Sydney Opera House

demonstration where the vile antisemitic chants were recorded. The constant theme of her recent posts have been all slanted into the condemnation of Israel, dissemination of false statistics, and the promulgation of antizionist [aka antisemitic] rhetoric. There has been no equivalent decrying of the brutality of Hamas's October 7 bloodbath, nor of the rape and mutilation of women and girls, not condemning the taking and holding of hostages in unspeakable conditions or calls for their release. There is no equivalence in this and clearly no balanced or impartial view.

The tragedy of the current Israel-Gaza war is overwhelming and what is even more distressing in Australia is the social divisiveness and increase in reported antisemitic incidents [over 750% since October 7 that are a consequence.

No one is winning in this tragic set of events but the harmony of the multicultural Australia we all aspire to reside in is also being broken. In part due to the agitation and bias being disseminated by people like Antoinette Lattouf. More concerning is that she is using the ABC to bolster her credibility and exposure. The ABC is then used as a platform for her to spread and promulgate hatred and social dissension.

Please live up to the Honourable part of your title and ensure that the ABC abides by its own Code of Practice.

Please do not allow this woman unfettered access to a wider audience than she already has. Lets all try and return to the civil society which we had.

Yours in hope

██████████

TAB-9

From: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 2:53 PM
To: Sashka Koloff; Steve Ahern; Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Ben Latimer
Subject: RE: Antoinette Lattouf

Hi all,

Will await further information from Steve, but in the meantime, a couple of initial thoughts:

I understand the criticisms of Antoinette stem at least in part from her work on this story in Crikey last week: <https://www.crikey.com.au/2023/12/13/viral-footage-gas-the-jews-police-factcheckers-unverified/> [crikey.com.au], which was the subject of criticism on Sky News: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUcFeixzpl> [youtube.com], which Antoinette responded to on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/antoinette_lattouf/reel/C03KPxbSZVg/ [instagram.com]. I note she's also a signatory to the recent [open letter](https://www.jotform.com) [form.jotform.com] from journalists to media outlets.

From what she said on-air this morning, she's only filling in on Mornings for a week.

In terms of how we apply the personal use of social media guidelines, it's important to consider the person's role and the extent to which their personal social media activity can affect the ABC's reputation for impartiality. Presenting the Mornings program on ABC Sydney is a high-profile role of course, but if she's only doing it on a temporary basis (for a week) it wouldn't be reasonable to expect that all of her previous social media activity would necessarily adhere to our guidelines. I'm not suggesting she's breached those guidelines – I haven't pored through her social media accounts – but just making the point that we ought to take a reasonable approach based on the fact that she's only in this role for a week.

Also, the fact that her recent work for Crikey has been the subject of criticism on Sky News doesn't automatically mean the criticism is justified or that the work itself was problematic. And it was clearly journalistic work (on a contentious subject) rather than commentary or opinion, which I think is relevant in determining whether it has any bearing on her (again, temporary) ABC role.

Question for Steve: is Antoinette likely to cover this subject (not the specific issue of the 'gas the Jews' chant at the Opera House, but the Israel-Gaza conflict more broadly) on Mornings this week?

Cheers
Simon

From: Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:55 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette Lattouf

Thanks, Chris.

Happy to assist. I know Antoinette quite well. If you can share substance of the complaints, might give a better sense of the concerns raised.

Thanks
Sashka

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From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:51:05 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette Lattouf

Thanks Chris,

I will get on to this immediately and let you know.

Steve



Steve Ahern
A/Head ABC Capital City Radio Network


E ahern.steve@abc.net.au
W <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/radio>
[\[abc.net.au\]](https://www.abc.net.au)

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
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Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>
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Hi Steve,

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I am not suggesting we make any changes at this time, but the perceived or actual lack of impartiality of her views are concerning.

Thanks Steve

C

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer





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TAB-10

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 3:32 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Ben Latimer; Simon Melkman; Sashka Koloff
Subject: Re: Antoinette Lattouf

Hi Chris,

Here are some details:

Selection of Antoinette Lattouf

- As part of our diversity policy a couple of years ago, a number of people were identified as potential future presenters for ABC Radio, Antoinette was one of them.
- She was trained in ABC radio presenting, including editorial policies. She presented a series of development shifts on digital channels about two years ago as part of her training, there were no incidents during those shifts.
- She is a journalist who previously worked for SBS and other media. She has also reported for ABC News [Antoinette Lattouf - ABC News \[abc.net.au\]](#)
- Her background is Lebanese Christian, she grew up in Western Sydney, the child of Lebanese immigrants.
- She presented two weeks of our national summer lineup last year without incident.
- This current stint is one week on air only in Sydney. She will finish on Friday and has not been booked up for any other shifts this season

Views on the Israel-Gaza War

- She has expressed views about being a child of migrants and views on discrimination, but has not, as far as we know, expressed personal views that would position her as biased in the current conflict. She has, however, recently reported on the Opera House protest.
- She has done reporting that the chants of 'gas the Jews' were unverified. She has investigated that position in an article for Crikey, which could be perceived as taking a position, but, when read in full, it appears balanced and journalistically sound. [Police, fact-checkers can't verify viral 'gas the Jews' footage \(crikey.com.au\) \[crikey.com.au\]](#)
- She also posted a similar commentary on Instagram on the 'gas the Jews' chants [Grab a cuppa and join me as I ask a lot of powerful people questions about a horrendously offensive video that went viral. Nobody can... | Instagram \[instagram.com\]](#)
- Some of the criticism relates to the reporting in these articles/posts

On Air program

- Today's program did not contain any content about Israel-Gaza, a full rundown is attached below.
- The show followed the brief, to reflect Sydney in the first week of the school holidays, which is what she did very well last year in a light bright presentation style.

- Antoinette and the production team have been advised that there should not be any Israel-Gaza War coverage in her show this week, as it does not fit the holiday Sydney brief for the show.
- One segment, about 'boycotts' and 'buycotts' in today's show did mention that at the current time there is a lot of people who are worried about the state of the world at the moment, but there was no specific Gaza reference (double checking the whole show now)
- This is the rundown from today's show

Rundown - Mornings with Antoinette Lattouf - Monday, December 18

8:32 What on earth is going on in Market Street CBD?

Rose Bolger ABC Sydney reporter/producer

8:35 Horror road death tolls on weekend, still time for demerit points relief

Tony Ibrahim, Sydney newsroom reporter

8:45 What kind of mozzie season can we expect?

Dr Cameron Webb, USYD

8:50 Human brain supercomputer fired up in Sydney

Professor André van Schaik, director of WSU's International Centre for Neuromorphic Systems.

9:05 2023 in Syd/NSW Politics

Max Maddison, SMH - STUDIO

9:25 SONG I'm Every Woman - Chaka Khan

9.35 Second-hand trauma and how to cope with disturbing news/images online

Arash Javanbakht, Director of Stress, Trauma, and Anxiety Research Clinic (STARC)

Wayne State University

9:45 SONG Moon and Back - Savage Garden

9:50 READ on road toll and demerits (inc. John Graham and Jenny Aitchison grabs)

10:07 Boycott/Buycotts - how do they work?

Erin O'Brien, QUT

10:20 Next Goal Wins (new Taika Waititi movie)

Actors Oscar Kightley and David Fane STUDIO

10.35 Best/Worst Christmas movies

Wenlei Ma, film and TV critic - STUDIO

Perceived position

- Some of the complaints received so far seem to be based more on audience perception, not content in the program. We see similar perceptions about other presenters on the network with Jewish backgrounds.
- A couple of the complaints say that she is "reporting on the Middle East situation." She is not doing so in this program and that is not the brief of the program she is presenting.
- The criticism is largely about the choice of presenter, not about the content within the program.

Please let me know if you need more information. I will continue to monitor the program.

Regards,
Steve



Steve Ahern
A/Head ABC Capital City Radio Network

E **ahern.steve@abc.net.au**
W <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/radio/abc.net.au>

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:49 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

Hi Steve,

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I am not suggesting we make any changes at this time, but the perceived or actual lack of impartiality of her views are concerning.

Thanks Steve

C



Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer

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TAB-11

From: Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 3:43 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Ben Latimer
Subject: Re: Antoinette Lattouf

Hi Chris & Ben,

Excellent summary from Steve. I looked at the complaints and have also reviewed her reporting for Crikey, which on the face of it seems sound.

I think we can feel confident having Antoinette host this week, particularly given Steve's assurances and ongoing support.

What are your thoughts?

S

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From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:32 pm
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette Lattouf

Hi Chris,

Here are some details:

Selection of Antoinette Lattouf

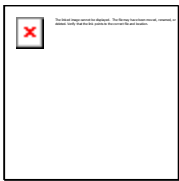
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- This current stint is one week on air only in Sydney. She will finish on Friday and has not been booked up for any other shifts this season

Views on the Israel-Gaza War

- Some of the complaints received so far seem to be based more on audience perception, not content in the program. We see similar perceptions about other presenters on the network with Jewish backgrounds.
- A couple of the complaints say that she is "reporting on the Middle East situation." She is not doing so in this program and that is not the brief of the program she is presenting.
- The criticism is largely about the choice of presenter, not about the content within the program.

Please let me know if you need more information. I will continue to monitor the program.

Regards,
Steve



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E ahern.steve@abc.net.au

W <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/radio>
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To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>

Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>

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TAB-12

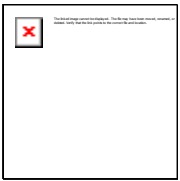
From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 3:45 PM
To: Simon Melkman; Sashka Koloff; Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Ben Latimer
Subject: Re: Antoinette Lattouf

Thanks Simon.

Thanks for pointing out that she signed the journalists letter to media outlets, I didn't note that in my email just sent. She was booked for this shift a couple of months ago before the letter happened.

Confirming that she will not be covering the Israel-Gaza conflict and it is not within the program brief to talk about this topic.

Regards,
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From what she said on-air this morning, she's only filling in on Mornings for a week.

In terms of how we apply the personal use of social media guidelines, it's important to consider the person's role and the extent to which their personal social media activity can affect the ABC's reputation for impartiality. Presenting the Mornings program on ABC Sydney is a high-profile role of course, but if she's only doing it on a temporary basis (for a week) it wouldn't be reasonable to expect that all of her previous social media activity would necessarily adhere to our guidelines. I'm not suggesting she's breached those guidelines – I haven't pored through her social media accounts – but just making the point that we ought to take a reasonable approach based on the fact that she's only in this role for a week.

Also, the fact that her recent work for Crikey has been the subject of criticism on Sky News doesn't automatically mean the criticism is justified or that the work itself was problematic. And it was clearly journalistic work (on a contentious subject) rather than commentary or opinion, which I think is relevant in determining whether it has any bearing on her (again, temporary) ABC role.

Question for Steve: is Antoinette likely to cover this subject (not the specific issue of the 'gas the Jews' chant at the Opera House, but the Israel-Gaza conflict more broadly) on Mornings this week?

Cheers
Simon

From: Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>
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Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette Lattouf

Thanks, Chris.
Happy to assist. I know Antoinette quite well. If you can share substance of the complaints, might give a better sense of the concerns raised.
Thanks
Sashka

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Chief Content Officer



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TAB-13

From: Simon Melkman
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 3:48 PM
To: Steve Ahern; Sashka Koloff; Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Ben Latimer
Subject: RE: Antoinette Lattouf

Thanks Steve. All sounds reasonable to me.

Cheers
Simon

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From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:51:05 PM

To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>

Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>

Subject: Re: Antoinette Lattouf

Thanks Chris,

I will get on to this immediately and let you know.

Steve



Steve Ahern
A/Head ABC Capital City Radio Network


E ahern.steve@abc.net.au
W <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/radio>

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:49 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

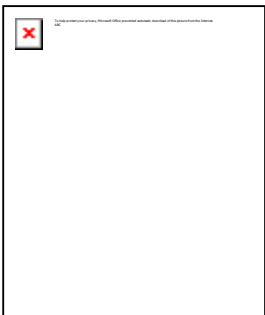
Hi Steve,

I have been forwarded a number of complaints this morning from the MD's office about Antoinette Lattouf and her position on the Israel/Gaza war. You may need to seek Simon Melkman or Sashka's advice here, but can we ensure that Antoinette is not and has not been posting anything that would suggest she is not impartial, I am concerned her public views may mean that she is in conflict with our own editorial policies, but Simon and Sashka would be able to advise. Can we also advise why we selected Antoinette as stand in host?

I am not suggesting we make any changes at this time, but the perceived or actual lack of impartiality of her views are concerning.

Thanks Steve

C



Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer



We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

TAB-14

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 3:54 PM
To: Simon Melkman; Steve Ahern; Sashka Koloff
Cc: Ben Latimer
Subject: RE: Antoinette Lattouf

Likewise, I will respond to the MDO now and explain that we have reviewed and expect her to continue on air this week and finish on Friday.

Thanks all for your thoughtful insights here, very much appreciated

C

From: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:48 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Subject: RE: Antoinette Lattouf

Thanks Steve. All sounds reasonable to me.

Cheers
Simon

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:45 PM
To: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette Lattouf

Thanks Simon.

Thanks for pointing out that she signed the journalists letter to media outlets, I didn't note that in my email just sent. She was booked for this shift a couple of months ago before the letter happened.

Confirming that she will not be covering the Israel-Gaza conflict and it is not within the program brief to talk about this topic.

Regards,
Steve



Steve Ahern
A/Head ABC Capital City Radio Network

E ahern.steve@abc.net.au
W <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/radio/abc.net.au>

From: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 2:53 PM
To: Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>; Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Subject: RE: Antoinette Lattouf

Hi all,

Will await further information from Steve, but in the meantime, a couple of initial thoughts:

I understand the criticisms of Antoinette stem at least in part from her work on this story in Crikey last week: <https://www.crikey.com.au/2023/12/13/viral-footage-gas-the-jews-police-factcheckers-unverified/> [crikey.com.au], which was the subject of criticism on Sky News: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUcFeixzpl> [youtube.com], which Antoinette responded to on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/antoinette_lattouf/reel/C03KPxbSZVg/ [instagram.com]. I note she's also a signatory to the recent [open letter \[form.jotform.com\]](https://form.jotform.com) from journalists to media outlets.

From what she said on-air this morning, she's only filling in on Mornings for a week.

In terms of how we apply the personal use of social media guidelines, it's important to consider the person's role and the extent to which their personal social media activity can affect the ABC's reputation for impartiality. Presenting the Mornings program on ABC Sydney is a high-profile role of course, but if she's only doing it on a temporary basis (for a week) it wouldn't be reasonable to expect that all of her previous social media activity would necessarily adhere to our guidelines. I'm not suggesting she's breached those guidelines – I haven't pored through her social media accounts – but just making the point that we ought to take a reasonable approach based on the fact that she's only in this role for a week.

Also, the fact that her recent work for Crikey has been the subject of criticism on Sky News doesn't automatically mean the criticism is justified or that the work itself was problematic. And it was clearly journalistic work (on a contentious subject) rather than commentary or opinion, which I think is relevant in determining whether it has any bearing on her (again, temporary) ABC role.

Question for Steve: is Antoinette likely to cover this subject (not the specific issue of the 'gas the Jews' chant at the Opera House, but the Israel-Gaza conflict more broadly) on Mornings this week?

Cheers
Simon

From: Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:55 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>

Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette Lattouf

Thanks, Chris.

Happy to assist. I know Antoinette quite well. If you can share substance of the complaints, might give a better sense of the concerns raised.

Thanks

Sashka

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:51:05 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sashka Koloff <Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette Lattouf

Thanks Chris,

I will get on to this immediately and let you know.

Steve



Steve Ahern
A/Head ABC Capital City Radio Network


E ahern.steve@abc.net.au
W <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/radio/abc.net.au>

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Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

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I am not suggesting we make any changes at this time, but the perceived or actual lack of impartiality of her views are concerning.

Thanks Steve

C



[\[abc.net.au\]](http://abc.net.au)

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer



We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

TAB-15

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 4:07 PM
To: Managing Director's Office; David N Anderson - Managing Director
Cc: Justin Stevens; Simon Melkman; Ben Latimer
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

Hi David, cc Justin for Viz.

A follow up to the earlier notes regarding Antoinette Lattouf and all credit to Steve Ahern for working so quickly to come back to us on the details.

Selection of Antoinette Lattouf

- As part of our diversity policy a couple of years ago, a number of people were identified as potential future presenters for ABC Radio, Antoinette was one of them.
- She was trained in ABC radio presenting, including editorial policies. She presented a series of development shifts on digital channels about two years ago as part of her training, there were no incidents during those shifts.
- She is a journalist who previously worked for SBS and other media. She has also reported for ABC News [Antoinette Lattouf - ABC News \[abc.net.au\]](#)
- Her background is Lebanese Christian, she grew up in Western Sydney, the child of Lebanese immigrants.
- She presented two weeks of our national summer lineup last year without incident.
- This current stint is one week on air only in Sydney. She will finish on Friday and has not been booked up for any other shifts this season
- She has signed the journalists letter to media outlets, this happened after she was booked for one weeks work

Views on the Israel-Gaza War

- She has expressed views about being a child of migrants and views on discrimination, but has not, as far as we know, expressed personal views that would position her as biased in the current conflict. She has, however, recently reported on the Opera House protest.
- She has done reporting that the chants of 'gas the Jews' were unverified. She has investigated that position in an article for Crikey, which could be perceived as taking a position, but, when read in full, it appears balanced and journalistically sound. [Police, fact-checkers can't verify viral 'gas the Jews' footage \(crikey.com.au\) \[crikey.com.au\]](#)
- She also posted a similar commentary on Instagram on the 'gas the Jews' chants [Grab a cuppa and join me as I ask a lot of powerful people questions about a horrendously offensive video that went viral. Nobody can... | Instagram \[instagram.com\]](#)
- Some of the criticism relates to the reporting in these articles/posts

On Air program

- Today's program did not contain any content about Israel-Gaza, and Local Radio Sydney have confirmed that she will not be covering the Israel-Gaza conflict and it is not within the program brief to talk about this topic.
- The show followed the brief, to reflect Sydney in the first week of the school holidays

- Antoinette and the production team have been advised that there should not be any Israel-Gaza War coverage in her show this week, as it does not fit the holiday Sydney brief for the show.
- One segment, about 'boycotts' and 'buycotts' in today's show did mention that at the current time there is a lot of people who are worried about the state of the world at the moment, but there was no specific Gaza reference

After consultation with Simon on the above points, this is our agreed position:

In terms of how does the ABC apply the personal use of social media guidelines, it's important to consider the person's role and the extent to which their personal social media activity can affect the ABC's reputation for impartiality. Presenting the Mornings program on ABC Sydney is a high-profile role, but if she's only doing it on a temporary basis (for a week) it wouldn't be reasonable to expect that all of her previous social media activity would necessarily adhere to our guidelines. We are not suggesting she's breached those guidelines, rather making the point that the ABC ought to take a reasonable approach based on the fact that she's only in this role for a week.

Please let any of us know David if you require further information.

Best wishes

Chris

TAB-16

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 4:07 PM
To: Steve Ahern; Sashka Koloff; Simon Melkman; Ben Latimer
Subject: FW: Antoinette Lattouf

FYI – many thanks for the quick and comprehensive response all.

C

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:07 PM
To: Managing Director's Office <managingdirectorsoffice@abc.net.au>; David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Cc: Justin Stevens <Stevens.Justin@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

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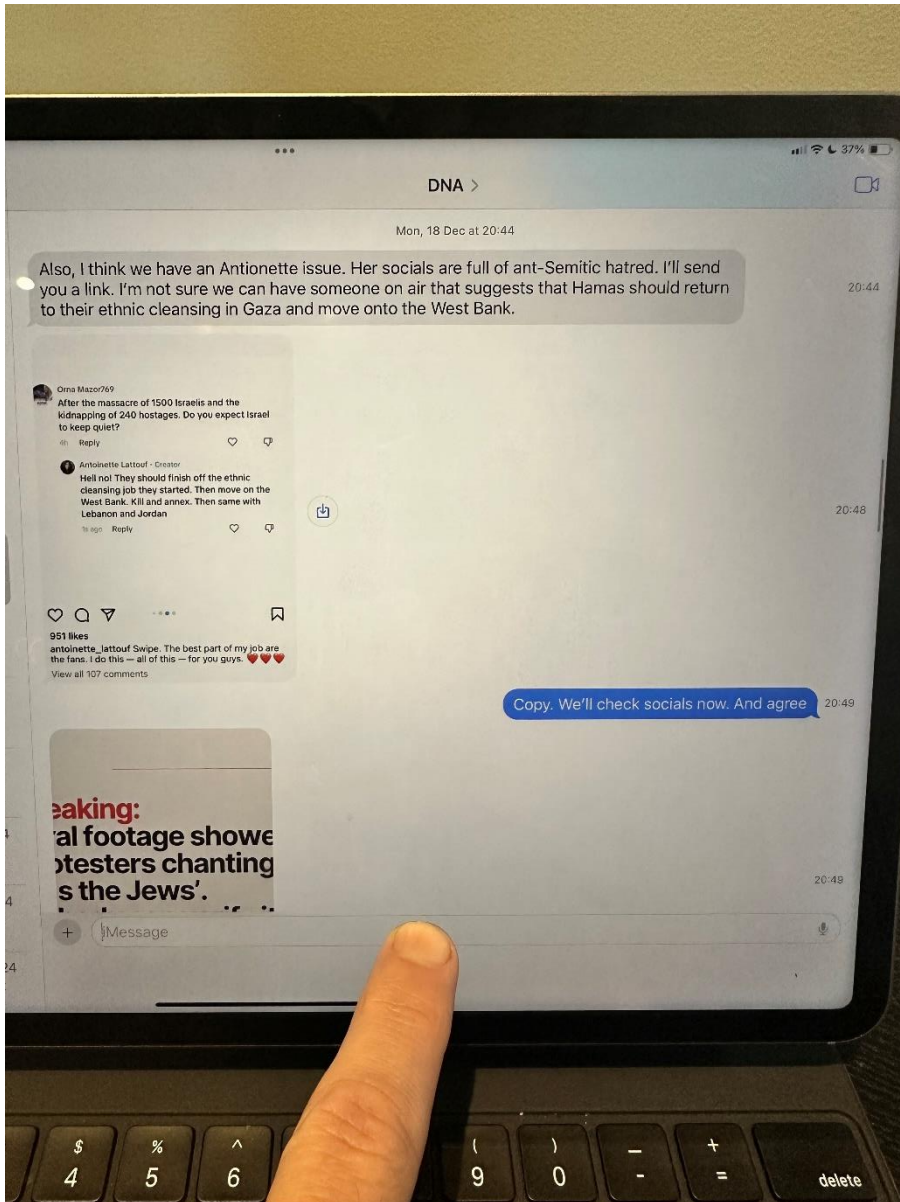
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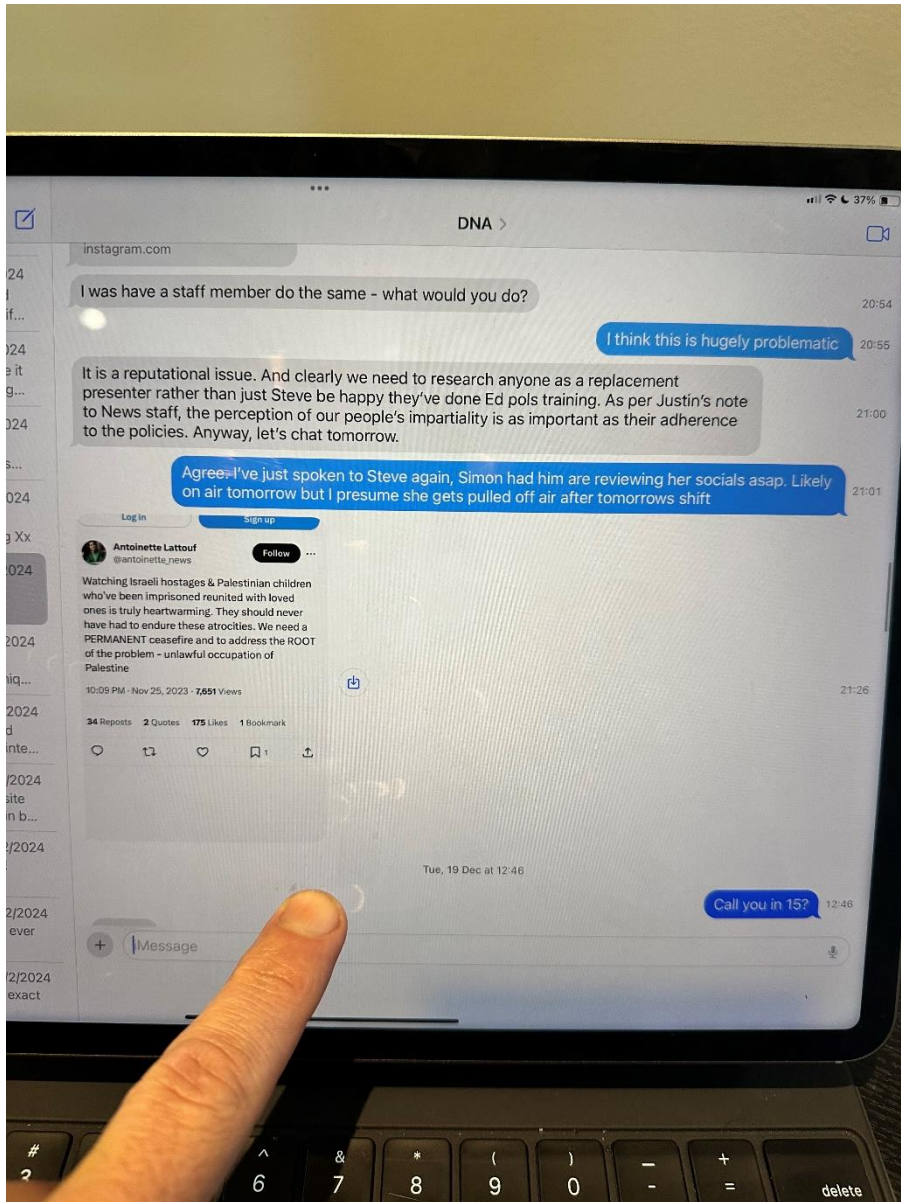
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Please let any of us know David if you require further information.

Best wishes

Chris





TAB-18

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 8:51 PM
To: Steve Ahern; Ben Latimer
Cc: Simon Melkman
Subject: Antoinette
Attachments: PHOTO-2023-12-18-20-47-11.heic

Team, MDO just sent me this. I think we have a problem
C

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC



Orna Mazor769

After the massacre of 1500 Israelis and the kidnapping of 240 hostages. Do you expect Israel to keep quiet?

4h Reply



Antoinette Lattouf · Creator

Hell no! They should finish off the ethnic cleansing job they started. Then move on the West Bank. Kill and annex. Then same with Lebanon and Jordan

1s ago Reply



951 likes

antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

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12 November



TAB-19

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 8:57 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor; Ben Latimer
Cc: Simon Melkman
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Thanks Chris.

Does she need to come off air? If so, it can be done, but may be disruptive if done tomorrow.

Steve

Steve Ahern
Manager, ABC Radio Sydney


E ahern.steve@abc.net.au
W abc.net.au/sydney [abc.net.au]

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:50:33 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette

Team, MDO just sent me this. I think we have a problem

C

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

TAB-20

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 9:01 PM
To: Steve Ahern; Ben Latimer
Cc: Simon Melkman
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Not tomorrow. Can you work with Simon and assess what is going on? Suspect very hard for her to stay on air to the end of this week if her tweets are correct. But let's cautiously review.

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC


From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:57:22 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Thanks Chris.

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Steve

Steve Ahern
Manager, ABC Radio Sydney



E ahern.steve@abc.net.au
W abc.net.au/sydney [abc.net.au]

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:50:33 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette

Team, MDO just sent me this. I think we have a problem
C

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

TAB-21

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 9:15 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor; Ben Latimer
Cc: Simon Melkman
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Ok. I will check it out further tomorrow.
Steve

Steve Ahern
Manager, ABC Radio Sydney


E ahern.steve@abc.net.au
W abc.net.au/sydney [abc.net.au]

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:00:30 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Not tomorrow. Can you work with Simon and assess what is going on? Suspect very hard for her to stay on air to the end of this week if her tweets are correct. But let's cautiously review.

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ABC

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Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
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Manager, ABC Radio Sydney



E ahern.steve@abc.net.au
W abc.net.au/sydney [abc.net.au]

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Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette

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C

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

TAB-22

From: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 11:00 PM
To: Steve Ahern; Chris Oliver-Taylor; Ben Latimer
Subject: RE: Antoinette

Happy to chat in the morning Steve.

At this stage I'd advise caution. A single screenshot taken out of the context of the full post (and even that post, taken out of the context of her full account) can be easily misconstrued. The full post (from November 12) is here: https://www.instagram.com/p/CzhW_YcSjCu/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA== [instagram.com]. It's a series of nine screenshots of Antoinette's responses to abhorrent, abusive or stupid comments people had made on some of her other posts. She titled it 'RESPONDING TO FAN MAIL ABOUT GAZA'. From seeing the full post it's reasonably apparent that she was sharing tongue-in-cheek / humorous retorts – i.e. she's collated what she regards as her 'best comebacks' to the sort of trolls or nonsense comments she evidently receives. I've put the post into one image so you can see it in full:

RESPONDING TO FAN MAIL ABOUT GAZA

ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

1/70

Like Comment Reply Share

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

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ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

Marty Isaac
personally. I would be happy once gaza is nuked
22h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator
Marty I am thrilled to report that you're one step close to being truly happy. Yay! Gaza is being annihilated hourly. Soon your wish will come true
1s ago Reply

Hide

Like Comment Reply Share

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

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ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

yonkele
You support Hamas abd hate abd animal behavior. You are so sick. Who pays you to lie and promote hatred.
10h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator
Hummus manufacturers pay me and so do chickpea farmers
1s ago Reply

Like Comment Reply Share

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
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yumichild Hummus manufacturers and chickpea farmers thank you for your service

ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

The Bean Of The Mung
Daring the truth of the matter is that this is a propaganda war. No one knows the truth. Only comment if you are there to see it for yourself 🤡
7m Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator
Darling, you should only comment if you're there yourself. Darling darl honey bun
1s ago Reply

Like Comment Reply Share

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

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ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

politicians and media commentators L... 2311 more

Pete
So do you give a fuck about the millions, yes the millions killed in the past decade in the Middle East by other Muslims. Or you only have crocodile
2h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator
Pete. Love your profile pic! Honestly, you're right. We should just kill all the Palestinians and complete the genocide

Like Comment Reply Share

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

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yumichild Hummus manufacturers and chickpea farmers thank you for your service

ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

user93184219728
Don't like it, go back there
23h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator
Great suggestion. It's just that Israel controls who goes in and out (kind of like with water and food). Reckon there are Gaza contiki tours I can do?
4m Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Antoinette Lattouf
I would love a pub crawl tour but instead visiting all the bombed hospitals. That would be so great to take selfies with. (That and all the corpses)
1s ago Reply

Like Comment Reply Share

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

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yumichild Hummus manufacturers and chickpea farmers thank you for your service

ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

Frankie tan
can u talk to my gov ,
1d Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator
Sure, but do they use WhatsApp? I'm too tight to make an international phone call.
1s ago Reply

First Time.?

Like Comment Reply Share

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

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ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

Chandrika Nair
1948 is history 7th Oct is current.
18h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator
Yes. Let's shred all calendars + recycle modern history textbooks = we can pretend nothing happened before Oct 7. We love to recycle! Yay environment
1s ago Reply

Like Comment Reply Share

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

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ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

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Orna Mazor769
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4h Reply

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1s ago Reply

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ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

aces313
100% pretty good,, I like
8h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator
Thank you. All my life I have aspired to be "pretty good". Now that I've done it, I can retire.
2s ago Reply

Mr h985

Like Comment Reply Share

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

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■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

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W abc.net.au/sydney [abc.net.au]

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Chief Content Officer
ABC

TAB-23

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 11:03 PM
To: Simon Melkman; Steve Ahern; Ben Latimer
Subject: Re: Antoinette

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antoinette_lattouf

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antoinette_lattouf

Marty Isaac personally. I would be happy once gaza is nuked

22h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf - Creator
Marty I am thrilled to report that you're one step close to being truly happy. Yay! Gaza is being annihilated hourly. Soon your wish will come true

1s ago Reply

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ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

yonkele You support Hamas abd hate abd animal behavior. You are so sick. Who pays you to lie and promote hatred.

10h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf - Creator
Hummus manufacturers pay me and so do chickpea farmers

1s ago Reply

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
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The Bean Of The Mung Darling the truth of the matter is that this is a propaganda war. No one knows the truth. Only comment if you are there to see it for yourself 🤪

7h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf - Creator
Darling, you should only comment if you're there yourself. Darling darl honey bun

1s ago Reply

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
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politicians and media commentators L... 22h more

Pete So do you give a fuck about the millions, yes the millions killed in the past decade in the Middle East by other Muslims. Or you only have crocodile

2h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf - Creator
Pete. Love your profile pic! Honestly, you're right. We should just kill all the Palestinians and complete the genocide

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

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user93186219728 Don't like it, go back there

23h Reply

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4m Reply

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antoinette_lattouf

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1d Reply

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1s ago Reply

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antoinette_lattouf

aces313 100% pretty good,, I like

5h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf - Creator
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2s ago Reply

Mr h985

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Steve

Steve Ahern

Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

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W abc.net.au/sydney [abc.net.au]

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Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

TAB-24

From: Steve Ahern
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 6:48 AM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor; Simon Melkman; Ben Latimer
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Thanks Chris and Simon.

Will await further advice.

Steve

Steve Ahern
Manager, ABC Radio Sydney


E ahern.steve@abc.net.au
W abc.net.au/sydney

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antoinette_lattouf

1/10

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ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts

antoinette_lattouf

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To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette

Team, MDO just sent me this. I think we have a problem
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Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

TAB-25

From: Ben Latimer
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 6:53 AM
To: Steve Ahern; Chris Oliver-Taylor; Simon Melkman; Sara-Jane King
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Hi Steve,
Let's you, Simon and I chat once we get ratings out the way this morning.
Thanks,
Ben

Ben Latimer
Head of Audio Content
ABC

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
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Thanks Chris and Simon.

Will await further advice.

Steve

Steve Ahern

Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

Error! Filename not specified.

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

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W abc.net.au/sydney

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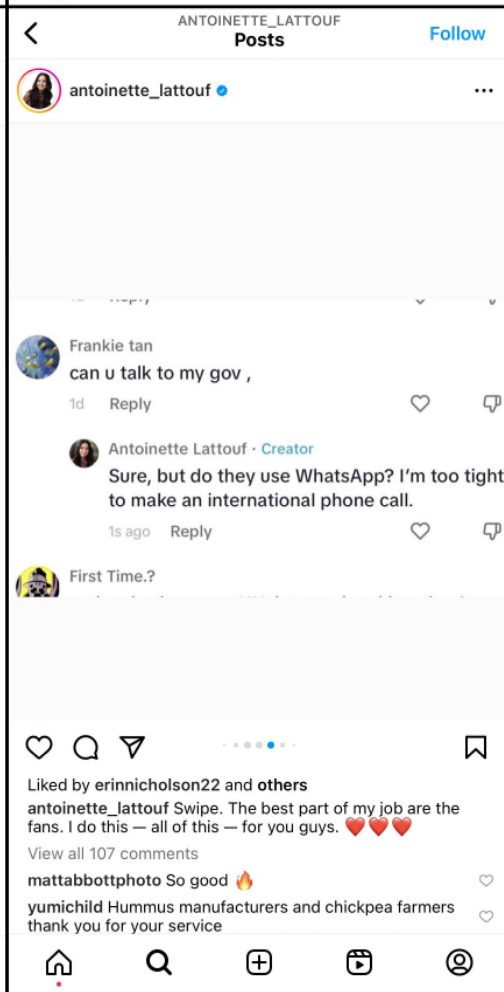
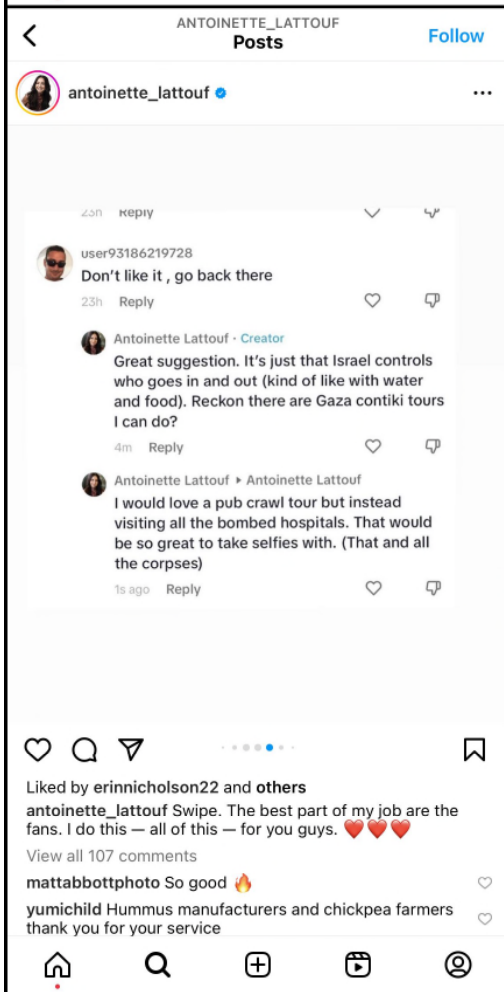
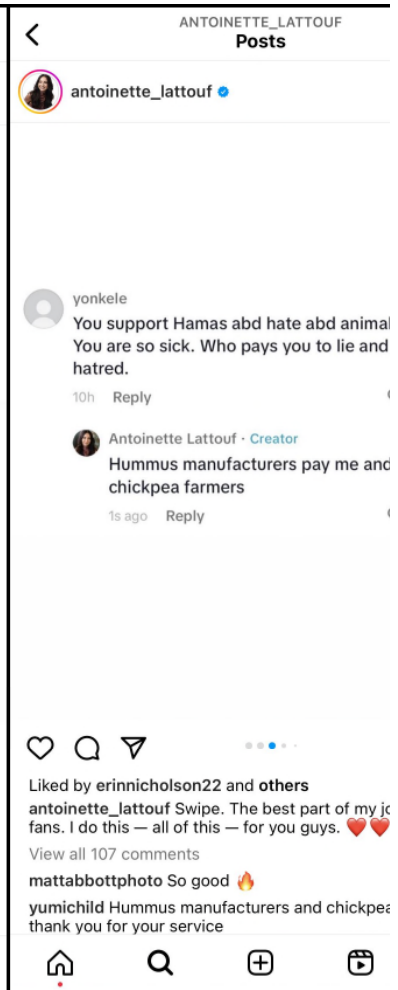
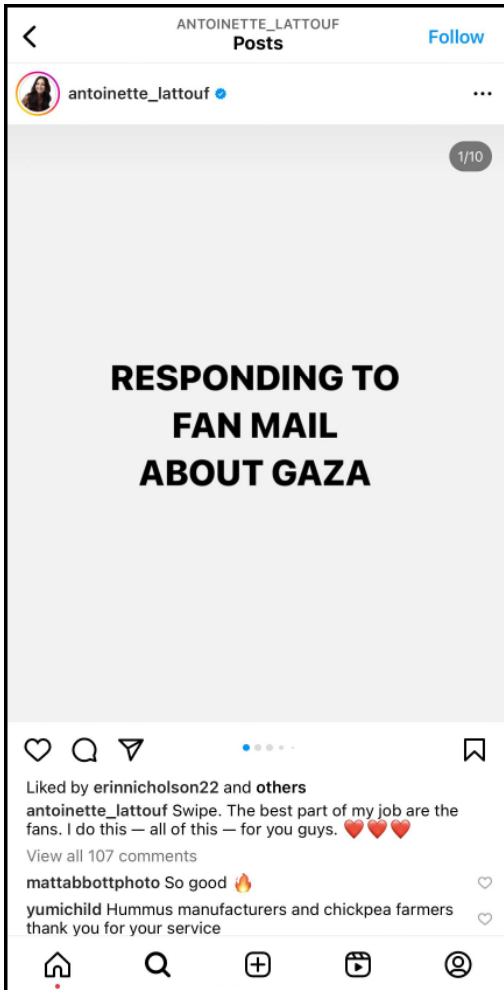
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TAB-26

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ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

1/10

RESPONDING TO FAN MAIL ABOUT GAZA

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View all 107 comments

mattabbottphoto So good 🔥

yumichild Hummus manufacturers and chickpea farmers thank you for your service

ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

Marty Isaac personally. I would be happy once gaza is nuked 22h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator Marty I am thrilled to report that you're one step close to being truly happy. Yay! Gaza is being annihilated hourly. Soon your wish will come true 1s ago Reply

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ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts

antoinette_lattouf

yonkele You support Hamas abd hate abd animal You are so sick. Who pays you to lie and hatred. 10h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator Hummus manufacturers pay me and chickpea farmers 1s ago Reply

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user93186219728 Don't like it , go back there 23h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator Great suggestion. It's just that Israel controls who goes in and out (kind of like with water and food). Reckon there are Gaza contiki tours I can do? 4m Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Antoinette Lattouf I would love a pub crawl tour but instead visiting all the bombed hospitals. That would be so great to take selfies with. (That and all the corpses) 1s ago Reply

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ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

Frankie tan can u talk to my gov , 1d Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator Sure, but do they use WhatsApp? I'm too tight to make an international phone call. 1s ago Reply

First Time.?

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

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ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts

antoinette_lattouf

Chandrika Nair 1948 is history 7th Oct is current. 18h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator Yes. Let's shred all calendars + re modern history textbooks = we can't nothing happened before Oct 7. We recycle! Yay environment 1s ago Reply

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ABC

TAB-27

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Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 11:10 AM
To: Steve Ahern; Ben Latimer
Cc: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Subject: RE: Antoinette

Hi both,

Good to chat just now. As discussed:

Based on the complaints we've seen thus far, I haven't identified any breaches of our personal use of social media guidelines. That's not a guarantee that she hasn't breached the guidelines – motivated complainants may trawl through her accounts and uncover something problematic that we haven't seen, and we should look into anything that complainants raise. But for the time being I don't believe there's any justification for pulling her off air.

Any assessment of her social media activity against the guidelines needs to take into account:

- the short-term nature of her engagement (which limits the extent to which she would be perceived as a representative of the ABC, and the extent to which it's reasonable to impose the guidelines in an overly restrictive way, especially on activity that predates her engagement);
- the fact that she's done (and will continue to do) lots of non-ABC work (e.g. her reporting for Crikey last week) – i.e. she isn't solely associated with the ABC, and her personal social media activity reflects that; and
- the agreement that she won't be discussing the Israel-Gaza war on the program this week (which reduces the risk that something she's said on social media in connection to the conflict could come into conflict with her ABC role, or undermine perceptions of her impartiality on the issue – since she won't be covering it on the ABC anyway).

There are key differences between this case and the Josh Szeps case. We haven't been inconsistent in our treatment of them (e.g. by pulling one presenter for expressing views on the Israel-Gaza war and allowing another presenter to remain on air after doing the same thing). From what you explained, Josh was pulled from air because he undertook non-ABC activity (appearing on Sky News) without ABC permission (despite knowing it's something the ABC would have declined, had he sought permission). It wasn't specifically because he expressed views on the Israel-Gaza war. Antoinette, on the other hand, has done nothing (as far as we've seen) that would be in breach of her contract or relevant ABC guidelines.

A couple of steps you could consider taking: (1) you can ask Antoinette to keep a low profile on social media this week (for her own protection as much as anything else, given the campaign against her which appears to be growing – there were 8 complaints logged yesterday, and another 15 today), and (2) if you think it's warranted (personally I don't), you could ask her to switch her profiles to private/protected for the rest of the week. (These two options would also potentially be worth considering for other fill-in presenters, depending on the issues they're dealing with and the nature of their social media activity.)

It's also worth reminding the Mornings team about being vigilant and prepared to use the dump button when Antoinette is taking talkback calls, as there's a risk that a motivated detractor could deceive their way on-air by saying they're going to talk about something innocuous, and then instead accost Antoinette about her views on Israel/Gaza etc. The team should be ready to dump any caller who does anything like that.

Happy to provide any further advice on this if required.

Cheers
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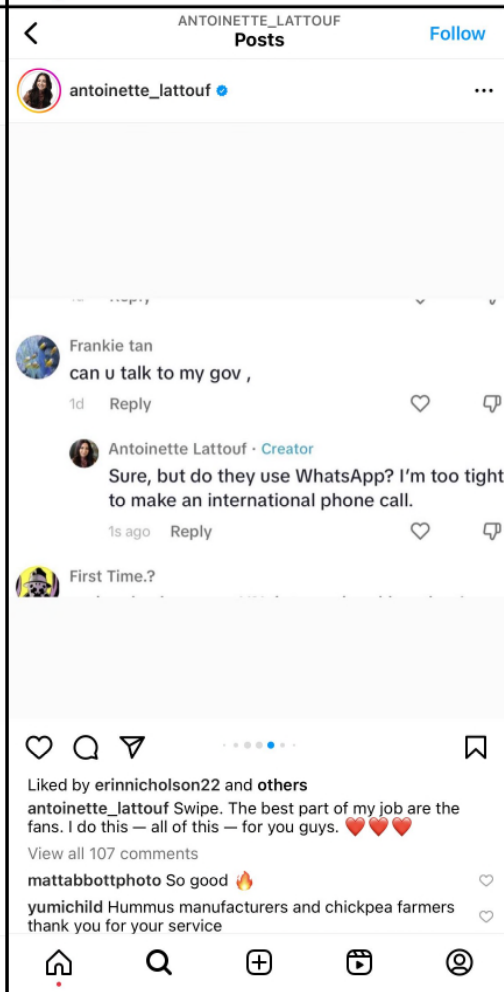
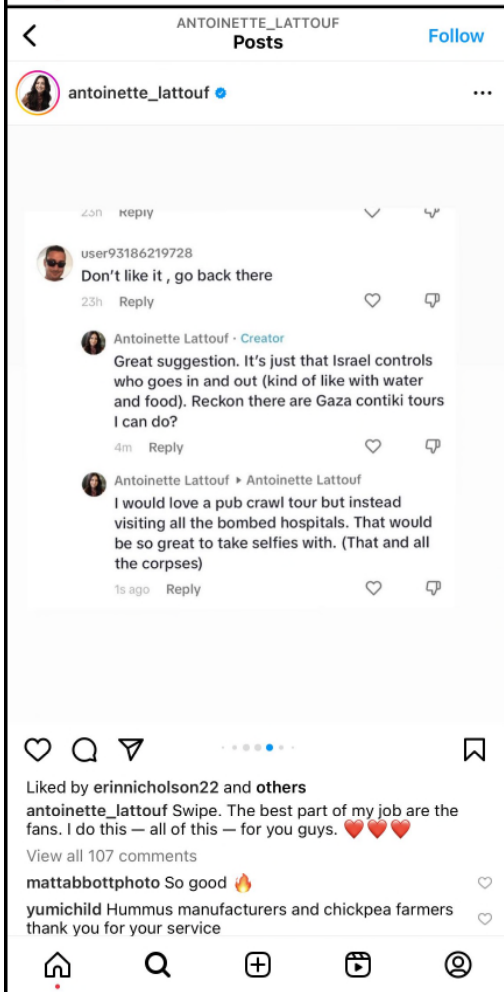
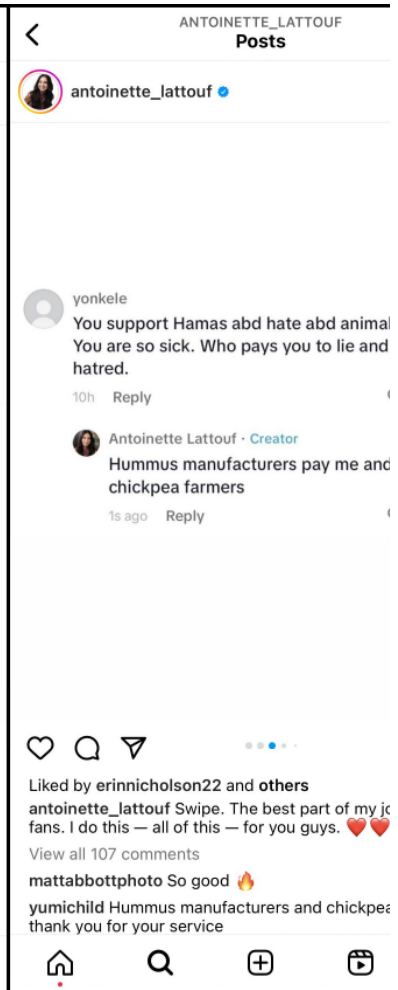
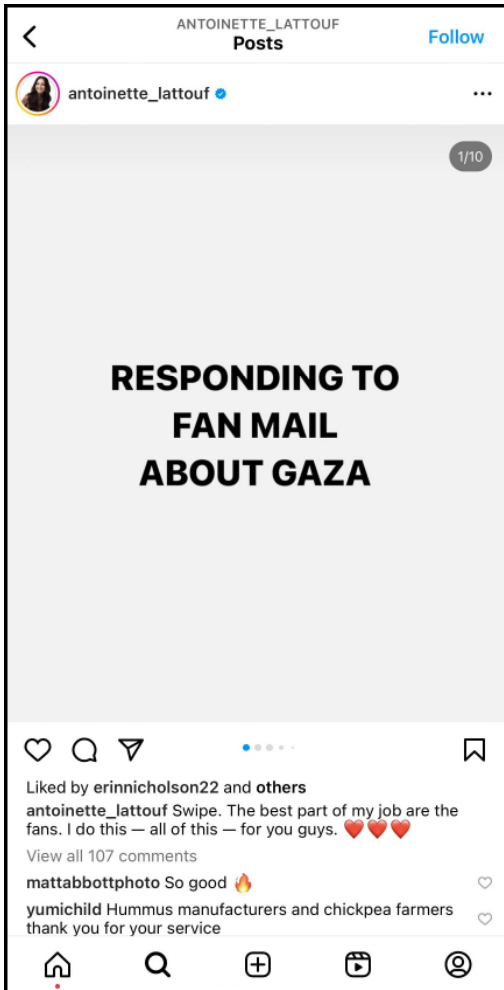
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Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

E ahern.steve@abc.net.au

W abc.net.au/sydney [abc.net.au]

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:00:30 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Not tomorrow. Can you work with Simon and assess what is going on? Suspect very hard for her to stay on air to the end of this week if her tweets are correct. But let's cautiously review.

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:57:22 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Thanks Chris.

Does she need to come off air? If so, it can be done, but may be disruptive if done tomorrow.

Steve

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Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

E ahern.steve@abc.net.au

W abc.net.au/sydney [abc.net.au]

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:50:33 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette

Team, MDO just sent me this. I think we have a problem
C

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

TAB-28

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 11:15 AM
To: Simon Melkman; Steve Ahern; Ben Latimer
Subject: RE: Antoinette

Thanks all, I think this makes sense to me. Steve, will leave it with you to take whatever proactive action you and the Sydney team think appropriate to manage and assist Antoinette. I will pass on this note, copy Simon to the MD as our position at this time. He may well hold a different view and we will need to pivot. But I think the advice provided below is sage and appropriate.

C

From: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 11:10 AM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Subject: RE: Antoinette

Hi both,

Good to chat just now. As discussed:

Based on the complaints we've seen thus far, I haven't identified any breaches of our personal use of social media guidelines. That's not a guarantee that she hasn't breached the guidelines – motivated complainants may trawl through her accounts and uncover something problematic that we haven't seen, and we should look into anything that complainants raise. But for the time being I don't believe there's any justification for pulling her off air.

Any assessment of her social media activity against the guidelines needs to take into account:

- the short-term nature of her engagement (which limits the extent to which she would be perceived as a representative of the ABC, and the extent to which it's reasonable to impose the guidelines in an overly restrictive way, especially on activity that predates her engagement);
- the fact that she's done (and will continue to do) lots of non-ABC work (e.g. her reporting for Crikey last week) – i.e. she isn't solely associated with the ABC, and her personal social media activity reflects that; and
- the agreement that she won't be discussing the Israel-Gaza war on the program this week (which reduces the risk that something she's said on social media in connection to the conflict could come into conflict with her ABC role, or undermine perceptions of her impartiality on the issue – since she won't be covering it on the ABC anyway).

There are key differences between this case and the Josh Szeps case. We haven't been inconsistent in our treatment of them (e.g. by pulling one presenter for expressing views on the Israel-Gaza war and allowing another presenter to remain on air after doing the same thing). From what you explained, Josh was pulled from air because he undertook non-ABC activity (appearing on Sky News) without ABC permission (despite knowing it's something the ABC would have declined, had he sought permission). It wasn't specifically because he expressed views on the Israel-Gaza war. Antoinette, on the other hand, has done nothing (as far as we've seen) that would be in breach of her contract or relevant ABC guidelines.

A couple of steps you could consider taking: (1) you can ask Antoinette to keep a low profile on social media this week (for her own protection as much as anything else, given the campaign against her which appears to be growing – there were 8 complaints logged yesterday, and another 15 today), and (2) if you think it's warranted (personally I don't), you could ask her to switch her profiles to private/protected for the rest of the week. (These two options would also potentially worth considering for other fill-in presenters, depending on the issues they're dealing with and the nature of their social media activity.)

It's also worth reminding the Mornings team about being vigilant and prepared to use the dump button when Antoinette is taking talkback calls, as there's a risk that a motivated detractor could deceive their way on-air by saying they're going to talk about something innocuous, and then instead accost Antoinette about her views on Israel/Gaza etc. The team should be ready to dump any caller who does anything like that.

Happy to provide any further advice on this if required.

Cheers
Simon

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Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 7:07 AM
To: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sara-Jane King <King.Sara-Jane@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Ok
S

Steve Ahern

Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

E ahern.steve@abc.net.au

W abc.net.au/sydney [abc.net.au]

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Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 6:53:02 AM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sara-Jane King <King.Sara-Jane@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Hi Steve,
Let's you, Simon and I chat once we get ratings out the way this morning.
Thanks,
Ben

Ben Latimer
Head of Audio Content
ABC

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Date: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 6:48 am
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>, Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>, Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Thanks Chris and Simon.

Will await further advice.

Steve

Steve Ahern

Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

Error! Filename not specified.

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

E ahern.steve@abc.net.au

W abc.net.au/sydney [abc.net.au]

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To: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>

Subject: Re: Antoinette

Thanks Simon, as ever, thoughtful and considerate advice. Let's carefully think things through Steve. I just need to ensure the MD is across our thinking tomorrow.

C

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Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>

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Subject: RE: Antoinette

Happy to chat in the morning Steve.

At this stage I'd advise caution. A single screenshot taken out of the context of the full post (and even that post, taken out of the context of her full account) can be easily misconstrued. The full post (from November 12) is here: https://www.instagram.com/p/CzhW_YcSjCu/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA== [instagram.com]. It's a series of nine screenshots of Antoinette's responses to abhorrent, abusive or stupid comments people had made on some of her other posts. She titled it 'RESPONDING TO FAN MAIL ABOUT GAZA'. From seeing the full post it's reasonably apparent that she was sharing tongue-in-cheek / humorous retorts – i.e. she's collated what she regards as her 'best comebacks' to the sort of trolls or nonsense comments she evidently receives. I've put the post into one image so you can see it in full:

ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

1/10

RESPONDING TO FAN MAIL ABOUT GAZA

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

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yumichild Hummus manufacturers and chickpea farmers thank you for your service

ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

Marty Isaac personally. I would be happy once gaza is nuked 22h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator Marty I am thrilled to report that you're one step close to being truly happy. Yay! Gaza is being annihilated hourly. Soon your wish will come true 1s ago Reply

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ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts

antoinette_lattouf

yonkele You support Hamas abd hate abd animal You are so sick. Who pays you to lie and hatred. 10h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator Hummus manufacturers pay me and chickpea farmers 1s ago Reply

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user93186219728 Don't like it , go back there 23h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator Great suggestion. It's just that Israel controls who goes in and out (kind of like with water and food). Reckon there are Gaza contiki tours I can do? 4m Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Antoinette Lattouf I would love a pub crawl tour but instead visiting all the bombed hospitals. That would be so great to take selfies with. (That and all the corpses) 1s ago Reply

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

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ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

Frankie tan can u talk to my gov , 1d Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator Sure, but do they use WhatsApp? I'm too tight to make an international phone call. 1s ago Reply

First Time.?

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

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ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts

antoinette_lattouf

Chandrika Nair 1948 is history 7th Oct is current. 18h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator Yes. Let's shred all calendars + re modern history textbooks = we can't do anything happened before Oct 7. We recycle! Yay environment 1s ago Reply

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️

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While it's not the sort of thing I would want a prominent current/ongoing presenter to post – because it treats such a serious subject with levity, and has the potential to be misunderstood – it doesn't strike me as egregious enough to warrant pulling her off air. It's consistent with her outspoken but humorous approach on Instagram – her fans/followers would have understood the comments weren't meant to be taken seriously. I'm also mindful that this is such a short-term engagement (which limits the extent to which listeners would regard her as a representative of the ABC, especially in social media activity predating her week on air) and this is a post from more than five weeks ago, well before her on-air role began.

The other factor to consider is the risk of jumping the gun or overreacting to this. Given that Antoinette is quite outspoken (e.g. via her work with Media Diversity Australia), and clearly has strong views on the current conflict and the Australian media's coverage of it (hence her decision to sign the open letter), I think there's a high chance that if the ABC was to cut her presenting role short because of this Instagram post – a post which she would presumably argue was entirely defensible, and not reflective of offensive views etc. – she would make it a very big (and very public) issue. I'm not suggesting our decisions as to how to manage people's personal social media activity should be driven by fear of them criticising any disciplinary action we might take, but I do think it's worth treading carefully in a case like this, on an issue like this, and being mindful of how things might play out.

One last point – in the event that you're inclined to pursue disciplinary action and cut her contract short (which, for the reasons mentioned above, I don't think would be warranted), it would be worth looping in P&C. There's an established process for this, which involves formally investigating and giving the person procedural fairness etc. (to be honest I'm not sure how much of that process is needed when someone is on such a short-term contract, but P&C can advise).

Cheers
Simon

From: Steve Ahern Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:15 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Ok. I will check it out further tomorrow.
Steve

Steve Ahern

Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

E ahern.steve@abc.net.au

W abc.net.au/sydney [abc.net.au]

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■ [REDACTED]

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Subject: Antoinette

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C

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

TAB-29

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 11:19 AM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director
Cc: Simon Melkman; Managing Director's Office; Ben Latimer
Subject: Antoinette

David,

Simon has reviewed where we are with Antoinette. A summary of his views following discussions with our team are below, our view is that as Antoinette's contract finishes on Friday, we do not believe we should pull her off air at this time, mainly as she has not breached the personal use of social media guidelines that we are aware of, she has three shifts remaining and the link to the ABC is nascent due to her casual employment. Steve has been made aware that significantly more diligence is required for fill in hosts in the future.

Simon's advice which I support.

Based on the complaints we've seen thus far, I haven't identified any breaches of our personal use of social media guidelines. That's not a guarantee that she hasn't breached the guidelines – motivated complainants may trawl through her accounts and uncover something problematic that we haven't seen, and we should look into anything that complainants raise. But for the time being I don't believe there's any justification for pulling her off air.

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A couple of steps you could consider taking: (1) you can ask Antoinette to keep a low profile on social media this week (for her own protection as much as anything else, given the campaign against her which appears to be growing – there were 8 complaints logged yesterday, and another 15 today), and (2) if you think it's warranted (personally I don't), you could ask her to switch her profiles to private/protected for the rest of the week. (These two options would also potentially worth considering for other fill-in presenters, depending on the issues they're dealing with and the nature of their social media activity.)

It's also worth reminding the Mornings team about being vigilant and prepared to use the dump button when Antoinette is taking talkback calls, as there's a risk that a motivated detractor could deceive their way on-air by saying they're going to talk about something innocuous, and then instead accost Antoinette about her views on Israel/Gaza etc. The team should be ready to dump any caller who does anything like that.

Please let Simon and I know if there are further options you would like to discuss

C

TAB-30

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 1:16 PM
To: Simon Melkman; Ben Latimer
Cc: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Subject: Re: Antoinette

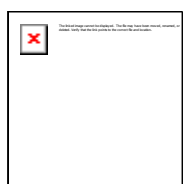
Hi Ben,

You asked for dot points from me, but Simon's excellent analysis covers everything we talked about, so there's nothing else to add.

I can confirm that our Content Director Elizabeth has reiterated to Antoinette the importance of not talking about Israel-Gaza in her shows this week. She has also suggested that Antoinette may be wise not to post anything on her socials this week.

Elizabeth has also spoken to the production team to be particularly vigilant about using the dump button if needed.

Steve



Steve Ahern
A/Head ABC Capital City Radio Network

E ahern.steve@abc.net.au
W <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/radio>
[\[abc.net.au\]](https://www.abc.net.au)

From: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 11:09 AM
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Hi both,

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Ok
S

Steve Ahern

Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

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Thanks Chris and Simon.

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Steve

Steve Ahern

Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

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■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

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personally. I would be happy once gaza is nuked
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You support Hamas abd hate abd animal You are so sick. Who pays you to lie and hatred.
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1s ago Reply

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️

View all 107 comments

mattabbottphoto So good 🔥

yumichild Hummus manufacturers and chickpea farmers thank you for your service

ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

user93186219728
Don't like it , go back there
23h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator
Great suggestion. It's just that Israel controls who goes in and out (kind of like with water and food). Reckon there are Gaza contiki tours I can do?
4m Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Antoinette Lattouf
I would love a pub crawl tour but instead visiting all the bombed hospitals. That would be so great to take selfies with. (That and all the corpses)
1s ago Reply

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

View all 107 comments

mattabbottphoto So good 🔥

yumichild Hummus manufacturers and chickpea farmers thank you for your service

ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette_lattouf

Frankie tan
can u talk to my gov ,
1d Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator
Sure, but do they use WhatsApp? I'm too tight to make an international phone call.
1s ago Reply

First Time.?

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️❤️

View all 107 comments

mattabbottphoto So good 🔥

yumichild Hummus manufacturers and chickpea farmers thank you for your service

ANTOINETTE_LATTOUF Posts

antoinette_lattouf

Chandrika Nair
1948 is history 7th Oct is current.
18h Reply

Antoinette Lattouf · Creator
Yes. Let's shred all calendars + re modern history textbooks = we can't nothing happened before Oct 7. We recycle! Yay environment
1s ago Reply

Liked by erinnicholson22 and others
antoinette_lattouf Swipe. The best part of my job are the fans. I do this — all of this — for you guys. ❤️❤️

View all 107 comments

mattabbottphoto So good 🔥

yumichild Hummus manufacturers and chickpea farmers thank you for your service

While it's not the sort of thing I would want a prominent current/ongoing presenter to post – because it treats such a serious subject with levity, and has the potential to be misunderstood – it doesn't strike me as egregious enough to warrant pulling her off air. It's consistent with her outspoken but humorous approach on Instagram – her fans/followers would have understood the comments weren't meant to be taken seriously. I'm also mindful that this is such a short-term engagement (which limits the extent to which listeners would regard her as a representative of the ABC, especially in social media activity predating her week on air) and this is a post from more than five weeks ago, well before her on-air role began.

The other factor to consider is the risk of jumping the gun or overreacting to this. Given that Antoinette is quite outspoken (e.g. via her work with Media Diversity Australia), and clearly has strong views on the current conflict and the Australian media's coverage of it (hence her decision to sign the open letter), I think there's a high chance that if the ABC was to cut her presenting role short because of this Instagram post – a post which she would presumably argue was entirely defensible, and not reflective of offensive views etc. – she would make it a very big (and very public) issue. I'm not suggesting our decisions as to how to manage people's personal social media activity should be driven by fear of them criticising any disciplinary action we might take, but I do think it's worth treading carefully in a case like this, on an issue like this, and being mindful of how things might play out.

One last point – in the event that you're inclined to pursue disciplinary action and cut her contract short (which, for the reasons mentioned above, I don't think would be warranted), it would be worth looping in P&C. There's an established process for this, which involves formally investigating and giving the person procedural fairness etc. (to be honest I'm not sure how much of that process is needed when someone is on such a short-term contract, but P&C can advise).

Cheers
Simon

From: Steve Ahern Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:15 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Ok. I will check it out further tomorrow.
Steve

Steve Ahern

Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

E ahern.steve@abc.net.au

W abc.net.au/sydney [abc.net.au]

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:00:30 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Not tomorrow. Can you work with Simon and assess what is going on? Suspect very hard for her to stay on air to the end of this week if her tweets are correct. But let's cautiously review.

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:57:22 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Thanks Chris.

Does she need to come off air? If so, it can be done, but may be disruptive if done tomorrow.

Steve

Steve Ahern

Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

E ahern.steve@abc.net.au

W abc.net.au/sydney [abc.net.au]

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:50:33 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette

Team, MDO just sent me this. I think we have a problem
C

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

TAB-31

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 1:23 PM
To: Steve Ahern; Simon Melkman; Ben Latimer
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Still having further discussions here Steve, standby.

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 1:15:58 PM
To: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette

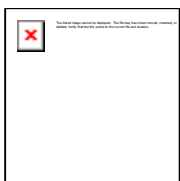
Hi Ben,

You asked for dot points from me, but Simon's excellent analysis covers everything we talked about, so there's nothing else to add.

I can confirm that our Content Director Elizabeth has reiterated to Antoinette the importance of not talking about Israel-Gaza in her shows this week. She has also suggested that Antoinette may be wise not to post anything on her socials this week.

Elizabeth has also spoken to the production team to be particularly vigilant about using the dump button if needed.

Steve



Steve Ahern
A/Head ABC Capital City Radio Network



E ahern.steve@abc.net.au
W <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/radio>

From: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 11:09 AM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Subject: RE: Antoinette

Hi both,

Good to chat just now. As discussed:

Based on the complaints we've seen thus far, I haven't identified any breaches of our personal use of social media guidelines. That's not a guarantee that she hasn't breached the guidelines – motivated complainants may trawl through her accounts and uncover something problematic that we haven't seen, and we should look into anything that complainants raise. But for the time being I don't believe there's any justification for pulling her off air.

Any assessment of her social media activity against the guidelines needs to take into account:

- the short-term nature of her engagement (which limits the extent to which she would be perceived as a representative of the ABC, and the extent to which it's reasonable to impose the guidelines in an overly restrictive way, especially on activity that predates her engagement);
- the fact that she's done (and will continue to do) lots of non-ABC work (e.g. her reporting for Crikey last week) – i.e. she isn't solely associated with the ABC, and her personal social media activity reflects that; and
- the agreement that she won't be discussing the Israel-Gaza war on the program this week (which reduces the risk that something she's said on social media in connection to the conflict could come into conflict with her ABC role, or undermine perceptions of her impartiality on the issue – since she won't be covering it on the ABC anyway).

There are key differences between this case and the Josh Szeps case. We haven't been inconsistent in our treatment of them (e.g. by pulling one presenter for expressing views on the Israel-Gaza war and allowing another presenter to remain on air after doing the same thing). From what you explained, Josh was pulled from air because he undertook non-ABC activity (appearing on Sky News) without ABC permission (despite knowing it's something the ABC would have declined, had he sought permission). It wasn't specifically because he expressed views on the Israel-Gaza war. Antoinette, on the other hand, has done nothing (as far as we've seen) that would be in breach of her contract or relevant ABC guidelines.

A couple of steps you could consider taking: (1) you can ask Antoinette to keep a low profile on social media this week (for her own protection as much as anything else, given the campaign against her which appears to be growing – there were 8 complaints logged yesterday, and another 15 today), and (2) if you think it's warranted (personally I don't), you could ask her to switch her profiles to private/protected for the rest of the week. (These two options would also potentially worth considering for other fill-in presenters, depending on the issues they're dealing with and the nature of their social media activity.)

It's also worth reminding the Mornings team about being vigilant and prepared to use the dump button when Antoinette is taking talkback calls, as there's a risk that a motivated detractor could deceive their way on-air by saying they're going to talk about something innocuous, and then instead accost Antoinette about her views on Israel/Gaza etc. The team should be ready to dump any caller who does anything like that.

Happy to provide any further advice on this if required.

Cheers
Simon

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 7:07 AM

To: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sara-Jane King <King.Sara-Jane@abc.net.au>

Subject: Re: Antoinette

Ok
S

Steve Ahern

Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

E ahern.steve@abc.net.au

W abc.net.au/sydney

From: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 6:53:02 AM

To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Sara-Jane King <King.Sara-Jane@abc.net.au>

Subject: Re: Antoinette

Hi Steve,
Let's you, Simon and I chat once we get ratings out the way this morning.
Thanks,
Ben

Ben Latimer
Head of Audio Content
ABC

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>

Date: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 6:48 am

To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>, Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>, Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>

Subject: Re: Antoinette

Thanks Chris and Simon.

Will await further advice.

Steve

Steve Ahern

Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

Error! Filename not specified.

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

E ahern.steve@abc.net.au

W abc.net.au/sydney

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:03:27 PM

To: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>

Subject: Re: Antoinette

Thanks Simon, as ever, thoughtful and considerate advice. Let's carefully think things through Steve. I just need to ensure the MD is across our thinking tomorrow.

C

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:00:18 PM

To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>

Subject: RE: Antoinette

Happy to chat in the morning Steve.

At this stage I'd advise caution. A single screenshot taken out of the context of the full post (and even that post, taken out of the context of her full account) can be easily misconstrued. The full post (from November 12) is here: https://www.instagram.com/p/CzhW_YcSjCu/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==. It's a series of nine screenshots of Antoinette's responses to abhorrent, abusive or stupid comments people had made on some of her other posts. She titled it 'RESPONDING TO FAN MAIL ABOUT GAZA'. From seeing the full post it's reasonably apparent that she was sharing tongue-in-cheek / humorous retorts – i.e. she's collated what she regards as her 'best comebacks' to the sort of trolls or nonsense comments she evidently receives. I've put the post into one image so you can see it in full:



While it's not the sort of thing I would want a prominent current/ongoing presenter to post – because it treats such a serious subject with levity, and has the potential to be misunderstood – it doesn't strike me as egregious enough to warrant pulling her off air. It's consistent with her outspoken but humorous approach on Instagram – her fans/followers would have understood the comments weren't meant to be taken seriously. I'm also mindful that this is such a short-term engagement (which limits the extent to which listeners would regard her as a representative of the ABC, especially in social media activity predating her week on air) and this is a post from more than five weeks ago, well before her on-air role began.

The other factor to consider is the risk of jumping the gun or overreacting to this. Given that Antoinette is quite outspoken (e.g. via her work with Media Diversity Australia), and clearly has strong views on the current conflict and the Australian media's coverage of it (hence her decision to sign the open letter), I think there's a high chance that if the ABC was to cut her presenting role short because of this Instagram post – a post which she would presumably argue was entirely defensible, and not reflective of offensive views etc. – she would make it a very big (and very public) issue. I'm not suggesting our decisions as to how to manage people's personal social media activity should be driven by fear of them criticising any disciplinary action we might take, but I do think it's worth treading carefully in a case like this, on an issue like this, and being mindful of how things might play out.

One last point – in the event that you're inclined to pursue disciplinary action and cut her contract short (which, for the reasons mentioned above, I don't think would be warranted), it would be worth looping in P&C. There's an established process for this, which involves formally investigating and giving the person procedural fairness etc. (to be honest I'm not sure how much of that process is needed when someone is on such a short-term contract, but P&C can advise).

Cheers
Simon

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:15 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Ok. I will check it out further tomorrow.
Steve

Steve Ahern

Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

E ahern.steve@abc.net.au

W abc.net.au/sydney

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:00:30 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Not tomorrow. Can you work with Simon and assess what is going on? Suspect very hard for her to stay on air to the end of this week if her tweets are correct. But let's cautiously review.

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:57:22 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Antoinette

Thanks Chris.

Does she need to come off air? If so, it can be done, but may be disruptive if done tomorrow.

Steve

Steve Ahern

Manager, ABC Radio Sydney



E ahern.steve@abc.net.au

W abc.net.au/sydney

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:50:33 PM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette

Team, MDO just sent me this. I think we have a problem
C

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

TAB-32

From: Lauren Stokes <Stokes.Lauren@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 3:28 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Vanessa Murray; Managing Director's Office
Subject: Antoinette Latouff Emails / Chair's Office
Attachments: concern Antionette Lattouf ABC Radio Sydney Mornings; Ms Latouff Call To Action; Ms Latauff ; Antoinette Lattouff - morning ABC Sydney show; Ms Latouff denies claims re antisemitic protest; New appointment ; Complaint about appropriateness of Antoinette Lattouff to host morning ABC Sydney Radio show; Complaint regarding the choice of Antoinette Lattouff as the Morning announcer host on ABC Sydney; Antoinette Lattouff in breach of ABC code of practice; Antoinette Lattouff; Re Message sent via ministerial website - ABC - your copy of details [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]; IABC breach of Code of Practice - Lattouff; Lattouff; Concerns Regarding Antoinette Lattouff's Presence on ABC radio Sydney; Antoinette Lattouff. ; Message sent via ministerial website - ABC radio host Antoinette Latouff is not fit for the role - your copy of details [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]; ABC breach of code; Fwd ABC's antisemitic presenter Antoinette Lattouff is not a fit person to present on the ABC ; Antoinette Lattouff; Radio 702 Sydney; Concerns about Antoinette Lattouff; ABC bias...again; Antoinette Lattouff is not impartial]; ABC bias - Antoinette Lattouff ; Re Complaint about Antoinette Latouff.; Why is anti-Israel advocate hosting ABC show; Antoinette Lattouff; Complaint about Antoinette Latouff.; Fwd ABC - Antoinette Lattouff

Dear Chris

The Chair/Board has received several email complaints regarding Antoinette Latouff. After a discussion between Ita and David we've been advised to forward these emails to you - please find them attached.

A brief acknowledgement email has been sent to each of the attached emails from the Chair's Office.

Thank you Chris

Kind regards
Lauren



[\[abc.net.au\]](http://abc.net.au)

Lauren Stokes
Executive Assistant to the Chair


E: Stokes.Lauren@abc.net.au

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 12:05 PM
To: Board
Subject: concern Antionette Lattouf ABC Radio Sydney Mornings

Att: ABC BOARD

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of deep concern regarding the impartiality and adherence to the ABC code of practice by Ms. Latouff, the current host of the ABC Sydney Morning show.

It has come to my attention that Ms. Latouff's recent actions have raised serious questions about her impartiality, as outlined in Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice. I would like to highlight the following issues:

1. Ms. Latouff co-authored an article titled "Viral footage showed protesters chanting 'Gas the Jews'. Nobody can verify it" (Crikey, Dec 13 2023), which also featured on her socials and has been widely shared. The article casts unreasonable doubt on the validity of antisemitic rhetoric, "Gas the Jews", "Fuck the Jews" witnessed at the Opera House on October 8. The intent behind the article was to provide a false and skewed narrative according to Ms. Latouff's personal views on the War and particularly Jewish people, contributing to the alarming rise in antisemitism, which has surged by over 700% since October 7.
2. Ms. Latouff's endorsement of the MEAA Open Letter raises concerns about her impartiality in reporting on conflicts.
3. The role of an ABC host, who leads and adds commentary to news stories, demands a basic level of impartiality and adherence to the ABC codes. Ms. Latouff's actions, as outlined above, call into question her ability to meet these standards.
4. As a taxpayer-funded public broadcasting company, the ABC has a vital responsibility to maintain the highest standards of journalism. The current situation, with Ms. Latouff continuing to host prime time TV, constitutes a clear breach of this obligation.

I urgently request a comprehensive explanation of the steps the ABC plans to take to rectify this situation and restore the credibility of its reporting. Australians deserve accurate, unbiased information, and it is crucial that swift and decisive action be taken to address this issue. I anticipate your prompt attention to this matter and a thorough investigation into the concerning conduct of Ms. Latouff. At a time when journalism needs to be at its strongest, it is imperative that the ABC upholds its commitment to journalistic integrity.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 9:48 AM
To: Board
Subject: Ms Latouff: Call To Action

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear ABC Board Members,

Ms. Latouff's recent actions online have raised serious questions about her impartiality, as outlined in Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice. I would like to highlight the following issues:

Ms. Latouff co-authored an article titled "Viral footage showed protesters chanting 'Gas the Jews'. Nobody can verify it" (Crikey, Dec 13 2023), which also featured on her socials and has been widely shared. The article casts unreasonable doubt on the validity of antisemitic rhetoric, "Gas the Jews", "Fuck the Jews" witnessed at the Opera House on October 8.

Unfortunately, the intent behind the article was to provide a false and skewed narrative according to Ms. Latouff's personal views on the War and particularly Jewish people. This type of rhetoric contributes to the alarming rise in antisemitism, which has surged by over 700% since October 7.

Ms. Latouff's endorsement of the MEAA Open Letter raises serious concerns about her impartiality in reporting on conflicts.

The role of an ABC host, who leads and adds commentary to news stories, demands a basic level of impartiality and adherence to the ABC codes. Ms. Latouff's actions, as outlined above, clearly call into question her ability to meet these standards.

As a taxpayer-funded public broadcasting company, the ABC has a vital responsibility to maintain the highest standards of journalism. The current situation, with Ms. Latouff continuing to host prime time TV, constitutes a clear breach of this obligation.

I urgently request a comprehensive explanation of the steps the ABC plans to take to rectify this situation and restore the credibility of its reporting. Australians deserve accurate, unbiased information, and it is crucial that swift and decisive action be taken to address this issue.

Please provide prompt attention to this serious matter and follow through with a thorough investigation into the concerning conduct of Ms. Latouff .

At a time when journalism needs to be at its strongest, it is imperative that the ABC upholds its commitment to journalistic integrity, as well as helping to ensure impartiality and the best practice is maintained.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 8:46 AM
To: Board
Subject: Ms Latauff

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the board of the ABC

You are task with the job of providing Fair honest, unbiased reporting

With an exceptionally substantial budget of Tax Payer funds the ABC should be an outstanding and exemplary institution delivering the news.

Sadly, there are areas where bias and one-sided views against particularly the Jewish population occur.

One example which you can put a stop to and rectify is Ms Latouff as the current host of ABC Sydney morning show.

Please remove her from the show altogether

Ms Latouff was a co-author of The recent article from 13 December, where effectively using your platform, she calls into question significant antisemitic statements made at the Sydney Opera House saying they were not said.

She has breached your code of practice under clause 4.

She has shown on multiple occasions, her bias and anti-Semitic views.

Please, at the very least, remove her from hosting The Morning Show, and after reviewing, this might end with you sacking her for breaching the journalistic code of conduct, and your own code of practice.

There should be no place on the ABC for one sided views.

Please see a letter below From [REDACTED] stating a similar case

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr.Anderson

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of deep concern regarding the impartiality and adherence to the ABC code of practice by Ms. Latouff, the current host of the ABC Sydney Morning show.

It has come to my attention that Ms. Latouff's recent actions have raised serious questions about her impartiality, as outlined in Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice. I would like to highlight the following issues:

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Ms. Latouff's endorsement of the MEAA Open Letter raises concerns about her impartiality in reporting on conflicts. The role of an ABC host, who leads and adds commentary to news stories, demands a basic level of impartiality and adherence to the ABC codes. Ms. Latouff's actions, as outlined above, call into question her ability to meet these standards.

As a taxpayer-funded public broadcasting company, the ABC has a vital responsibility to maintain the highest standards of journalism. The current situation, with Ms. Latouff continuing to host prime time TV, constitutes a clear breach of this obligation.

I urgently request a comprehensive explanation of the steps the ABC plans to take to rectify this situation and restore the credibility of its reporting. Australians deserve accurate, unbiased information, and it is crucial that swift and decisive action be taken to address this issue.

I anticipate your prompt attention to this matter and a thorough investigation into the concerning conduct of Ms. Latouff. At a time when journalism needs to be at its strongest, it is imperative that the ABC upholds its commitment to journalistic integrity.

Sincerely,



Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 7:20 AM
To: Minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au
Cc: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board
Subject: Antoinette Lattouff - morning ABC Sydney show

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Minister Rowland, David Anderson and esteemed ABC Board members,

I am wiring to you regarding Antoinette Lattouff is supposedly unbiased and impartial on the morning ABC Sydney Show.

Antoinette is not impartial on the war in the Middle East and what are the consequences for her stating that “gas the Jews” at the Sydney Opera House was a lie, when it had been proven that this was said.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

I would appreciate a response.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 7:11 AM
To: Board; David N Anderson - Managing Director
Subject: Ms Latouff denies claims re antisemitic protest

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr.Anderson

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of deep concern regarding the impartiality and adherence to the ABC code of practice by Ms. Latouff, the current host of the ABC Sydney Morning show. It has come to my attention that Ms. Latouff's recent actions have raised serious questions about her impartiality, as outlined in Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice. I would like to highlight the following issues: Ms. Latouff co-authored an article titled "Viral footage showed protesters chanting 'Gas the Jews'. Nobody can verify it" (Crikey, Dec 13 2023), which also featured on her socials and has been widely shared. The article casts unreasonable doubt on the validity of antisemitic rhetoric, "Gas the Jews", "Fuck the Jews" witnessed at the Opera House on October 8. The intent behind the article was to provide a false and skewed narrative according to Ms. Latouff's personal views on the War and particularly Jewish people, contributing to the alarming rise in antisemitism, which has surged by over 700% since October 7. Ms. Latouff's endorsement of the MEAA Open Letter raises concerns about her impartiality in reporting on conflicts. The role of an ABC host, who leads and adds commentary to news stories, demands a basic level of impartiality and adherence to the ABC codes. Ms. Latouff's actions, as outlined above, call into question her ability to meet these standards. As a taxpayer-funded public broadcasting company, the ABC has a vital responsibility to maintain the highest standards of journalism. The current situation, with Ms. Latouff continuing to host prime time TV, constitutes a clear breach of this obligation. I urgently request a comprehensive explanation of the steps the ABC plans to take to rectify this situation and restore the credibility of its reporting. Australians deserve accurate, unbiased information, and it is crucial that swift and decisive action be taken to address this issue. I anticipate your prompt attention to this matter and a thorough investigation into the concerning conduct of Ms. Latouff. At a time when journalism needs to be at its strongest, it is imperative that the ABC upholds its commitment to journalistic integrity.

Thanks

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 7:02 AM
To: Board
Subject: New appointment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the Board of the ABC

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of deep concern regarding the impartiality and adherence to the ABC code of practice by Ms. Latouff, the current host of the ABC Sydney Morning show.

It has come to my attention that Ms. Latouff's recent actions have raised serious questions about her impartiality, as outlined in Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice. I would like to highlight the following issues:

Ms. Latouff co-authored an article titled "Viral footage showed protesters chanting 'Gas the Jews'. Nobody can verify it" (Crikey, Dec 13 2023), which also featured on her socials and has been widely shared. The article casts unreasonable doubt on the validity of antisemitic rhetoric, "Gas the Jews", "Fuck the Jews" witnessed at the Opera House on October 8. The intent behind the article was to provide a false and skewed narrative according to Ms. Latouff's personal views on the War and particularly Jewish people, contributing to the alarming rise in antisemitism, which has surged by over 700% since October 7.

Ms. Latouff's endorsement of the MEAA Open Letter raises concerns about her impartiality in reporting on conflicts. The role of an ABC host, who leads and adds commentary to news stories, demands a basic level of impartiality and adherence to the ABC codes. Ms. Latouff's actions, as outlined above, call into question her ability to meet these standards.

As a taxpayer-funded public broadcasting company, the ABC has a vital responsibility to maintain the highest standards of journalism. The current situation, with Ms. Latouff continuing to host prime time TV, constitutes a clear breach of this obligation.

I urgently request a comprehensive explanation of the steps the ABC plans to take to rectify this situation and restore the credibility of its reporting. Australians deserve accurate, unbiased information, and it is crucial that swift and decisive action be taken to address this issue.

I anticipate your prompt attention to this matter and a thorough investigation into the concerning conduct of Ms. Latouff. At a time when journalism needs to be at its strongest, it is imperative that the ABC upholds its commitment to journalistic integrity.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:51 PM
To: Board; David N Anderson - Managing Director
Subject: Concerns about Antoinette Lattouf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr Anderson and the ABC Board

I am writing with concerns regarding Antoinette Lattouf hosting the morning ABC Sydney show.

Antoinette is not impartial on the war in the Middle East and her content on Instagram is blatantly antisemitic and hateful. One example is her stating that "gas the Jews" at the Sydney Opera House was a lie. This was filmed and widely shared.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

The ABC is a national broadcaster and should represent ALL Australians and not some. Allowing such an overt antisemite to have such a prominent broadcasting role should not be allowed. Whatever she says in private is a direct reflection on the values of the ABC and Annette does not represent the Australian values of multiculturalism and tolerance.

The ABC needs to take action and remove Antoinette Lattouf from all hosting and journalism duties.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:50 PM
To: Board
Subject: ABC bias...again

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear ABC board,

My family has lived peacefully in Australia as Jews for nine generations and we are currently experiencing the worst anti-semitism in Australia in my family's history.

I am writing to ask you to take action regarding Antoinette Lattouf who is hosting the morning ABC Sydney show.

Of course today's discussion is on boycotts. Why is it that when one discusses boycotts the focus is on Israel? Where is the outrage at Syria, China, Sudan, Yemen...?

Antoinette is not impartial on the war in the Middle East. What are the consequences for her stating that "gas the Jews" at the Sydney Opera House was a lie? She is the last person who should be hosting this show at such a heated time when she has so obviously shown her true colors.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

I ask that you immediately take action and find presenters who are not inflammatory, unbiased and contribute in a positive way.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:43 PM
To: Board
Subject: ABC bias - Antoinette Lattouf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I write to ask how Antoinette Lattouf is permitted to be hosting the morning ABC Sydney show.

Antoinette is not impartial on the war in the Middle East. She has repeatedly shown her bias. I am wondering what the consequences are for her stating that "gas the Jews" at the Sydney Opera House was a lie.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

Given the staggering increase in antisemitism in Australia since October 7, continuing to provide this clearly bad faith actor (seeking to discredit and minimise the Jewish community's lived experience of such antisemitism) is repugnant and in breach of the ABC code of conduct.

I have written to Minister Rowlands and ABC Managing director David Anderson, asking the same questions.

I await your reply as to the action you are taking

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:41 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director
Cc: Board
Subject: Re: Complaint about Antoinette Latouff.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Excuse I forgot to put my name at the end of the letter.

Signed,
[REDACTED]

On Mon, 18 Dec 2023 at 12:39, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr Anderson and all those it concerns,

I am writing to communicate my extreme disappointment in seeing that Antoinette Latouff is hosting the abc morning show.

Antoinette has recently made videos and written articles bringing into question whether 'gas the Jews' was changed at the Sydney opera house.

This incident at The Opera House was an embarrassment to Australia and has been verified by eye witnesses and video proof. Antoinette's claims were highly irresponsible and caused great distress for me personally. As the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors I am not exaggerating when I say how much pain it caused me.

It was a gift to those who are falling for the antisemitic trope of Jews being liars. Unfortunately; at a time of such rise in antisemitism it caused many to jump at the chance to hurl antisemitic abuse. For me personally, I could not sleep the night her article and video came out and she has not retracted it since proof has come out - even though the coauthor of Antoinette's article has made corrections on X (formerly Twitter). Since then, abc radio has latched on to this skepticism and questioned Deborah Conway in her interview about whether 'gas the Jews' was in fact said.

Clause 4 of the ABC code is to be impartial and Antoinette is clearly not impartial regarding the Israel/gaza war. She is not impartial and she has brought her journalistic integrity into disrepute.

Please ensure that ABC does not give her the platform.

Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:40 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Mr Anderson and the ABC board,

I would like to understand how Ms Lattouf is the correspond for the ABC for reporting on the Middle East. She is not impartial and, as ABC is a public broadcasting company which is funded by Australian taxpayers.

Furthermore, she has incorrectly claimed that the Jewish community said “gas the Jews” was a lie and there have now been 4 statutory declarations by independent witnesses (some of whom are not part of the Jewish community) attesting to this.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Ms Lattouf to report on this, there is no impartiality. ABC is in breach of their obligations by allowing her to continue to report on the conflict.

Please advise how you intend to handle this matter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IMPORTANT FRAUD ALERT – The Law Society of NSW has reported an increasing occurrence of fraudsters intercepting emails and inserting their bank account details in place of the intended account details. To mitigate this risk, you must not deposit or transfer funds using account details provided by us (or anyone else) via email only. If you receive such an email, phone our office and verify the account details first.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:40 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director
Cc: Board
Subject: Complaint about Antoinette Latouff.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr Anderson and all those it concerns,

I am writing to communicate my extreme disappointment in seeing that Antoinette Latouff is hosting the abc morning show.

Antoinette has recently made videos and written articles bringing into question whether 'gas the Jews' was changed at the Sydney opera house.

This incident at The Opera House was an embarrassment to Australia and has been verified by eye witnesses and video proof. Antoinette's claims were highly irresponsible and caused great distress for me personally. As the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors I am not exaggerating when I say how much pain it caused me.

It was a gift to those who are falling for the antisemitic trope of Jews being liars. Unfortunately; at a time of such rise in antisemitism it caused many to jump at the chance to hurl antisemitic abuse. For me personally, I could not sleep the night her article and video came out and she has not retracted it since proof has come out - even though the coauthor of Antoinette's article has made corrections on X (formerly Twitter). Since then, abc radio has latched on to this skepticism and questioned Deborah Conway in her interview about whether 'gas the Jews' was in fact said.

Clause 4 of the ABC code is to be impartial and Antoinette is clearly not impartial regarding the Israel/gaza war. She is not impartial and she has brought her journalistic integrity into disrepute.

Please ensure that ABC does not give her the platform.

Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:40 PM
To: Minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au
Cc: Board; David N Anderson - Managing Director; Ombudsman's Office
Subject: Why is anti-Israel advocate hosting ABC show?

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

How is it possible that Antoinette Latouff is hosting a show on the ABC in Sydney? She is chief proponent of the lie that an egregious act of anti-Semitism ("gas the Jews" chants of October 8) did not actually take place. It's basically having a Holocaust Denier employed as a host on our national broadcaster!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:36 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director
Cc: Board
Subject: Fwd: ABC - Antoinette Lattouf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Mr Anderson and the ABC Board

Please find below an impassioned letter I wrote earlier to Minister Rowland. I have forwarded it to all of you in the hope that you can enforce your own Code of Practice by both recognising the problematic nature of allowing this person to continue to use the ABC as a platform for her spouting her biased views, incitement to prejudice, and consequently fragmentation of social cohesion. Please do not give her 'air'.

Yours

[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: ABC - Antoinette Lattouf
Date: 18 December 2023 at 12:10:31 pm AEDT
To: Minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au

Dear Minister Rowland

Just wondering why is it that the ABC has chosen to defy its own Code of Practice. According to Clause 4 the ABC has a statutory duty to ensure that the gathering and presentation of news and information is impartial according to the recognised standards of objective journalism.

Why is it then the ABC has employed Antoinette Lattouf to host the morning ABC Sydney show? This person has very loudly, clearly and widely announced her partiality regarding the current crisis in the Middle East. Most recently she has cast doubt on the veracity of the Sydney Opera House demonstration where the vile antisemitic chants were recorded. The constant theme of her recent posts have been all slanted into the condemnation of Israel, dissemination of false statistics, and the promulgation of antizionist [aka antisemitic] rhetoric. There has been no equivalent decrying of the brutality of Hamas's October 7 bloodbath, nor of the rape and mutilation of women and girls, not condemning the taking and holding of hostages in unspeakable conditions or calls for their release. There is no equivalence in this and clearly no balanced or impartial view.

The tragedy of the current Israel-Gaza war is overwhelming and what is even more distressing in Australia is the social divisiveness and increase in reported antisemitic incidents [over 750% since October 7 that are a consequence.

No one is winning in this tragic set of events but the harmony of the multicultural Australia we all aspire to reside in is also being broken. In part due to the agitation and bias being disseminated by people like Antoinette Lattouf. More concerning is that she is using the ABC to bolster her credibility and exposure. The ABC is then used as a platform for her to spread and promulgate

hatred and social dissension.

Please live up to the Honourable part of your title and ensure that the ABC abides by its own Code of Practice.

Please do not allow this woman unfettered access to a wider audience than she already has. Lets all try and return to the civil society which we had.

Yours in hope

██████████

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 10:23 PM
To: Board
Subject: Complaint regarding the choice of Antoinette Lattouf as the Morning announcer/
host on ABC Sydney

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the attention of the Board of the ABC,

I have written to the Minister for Communications, Minister Rowland about the above matter.

My email reads:

Dear Minister Rowland,

As you are the minister in charge of Communications, I wanted to lodge a formal complaint about the ABC, our national broadcaster, and more specifically ABC Sydney radio's decision to employ Antoinette Lattouf to host the Morning program.

Ms Lattouf is widely known for her stance on the Middle East and she is not impartial. She has been known to say that the chanting of 'Gas the Jews' at the Opera House never occurred.

I understand that Clause 4 of the ABC Code of Practice states that employees should be impartial and employing Ms Latouff is a breach of this clause.

Can you please explain how the decision was made to employ Ms Lattouf?

I await your response to the above.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 12:09 AM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board; Minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au
Subject: Complaint about appropriateness of Antoinette Lattouf to host: morning ABC Sydney Radio show

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Michelle Rowland, David Anderson, ABC Board

I'm seeking your leadership with regards to Ms Lattouf's presence on the ABC Sydney Radio show. Clause 4 of the ABC code of Practice is to be impartial. It is central to your promise to Australians and as evidence of this, the word "impartial" appears 10 times in your Code of Practice. Employing Ms Antoinette Lattouf is in breach of this important promise. I ask that you employ a different person who is genuinely impartial for this important role.

Ms Lattouf is not impartial on the war in the Middle East. Ms Lattouf's views on the war feature in her social media and/or opinion pieces each day. A viewer or reader is left with zero doubt as to her views, which are firmly Pro-Hamas and/or Pro-Palestinian. Someone who is impartial, is likely to choose to speak to broader interests to the Australian people and spend equal time and emphasis presenting all points of view. I worry that employing Ms Lattouf on ABC Radio risks it becoming akin to a propaganda arm of the Pro-Hamas Terrorist Group. Ms Lattouf's views are her subjective opinion which support her family background. It isn't appropriate for her to be presenting her "opinion" as "fact" when it is clearly one-sided.

Her first topic for discussion on the radio is Israel boycotts and how effective they are.

She has also signed the letter below to support ethical reporting on Israel and Palestine which was signed by over 3000 journalists, which proves she is not impartial.

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://form.jotform.com/233177455020046__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbdmz_dZY\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://form.jotform.com/233177455020046__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbdmz_dZY$)

This is a snippet of recent social media and opinion pieces from Ms Lattouf which clearly demonstrate her firm opinion and bias towards Palestinians.

Trivialization of a conflict, calling Israel cray cray, etc

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0xN56byzSl/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbCopoUK0\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0xN56byzSl/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbCopoUK0$)

Inferring that the "Gas the Jews" footage from the Opera House was doctored by Jews:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0xmvJcSPtM/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbS-L3Oyg\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0xmvJcSPtM/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbS-L3Oyg$)

Ms Lattouf's post is still live, despite the raw footage being shared / available as per this Sky News link.

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.skynews.com.au/opinion/sharri-markson/left-continues-to-deny-antisemitism-being-promoted-at-propalestine-protests/video/8b9b8ca78832cedd5808d87a373b9139__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbMnmutOo\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.skynews.com.au/opinion/sharri-markson/left-continues-to-deny-antisemitism-being-promoted-at-propalestine-protests/video/8b9b8ca78832cedd5808d87a373b9139__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbMnmutOo$)

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0yDH9Py_eO/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGb_UNylwA\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0yDH9Py_eO/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGb_UNylwA$)

Post promoting the crikey article on Lattouf's Instagram:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/p/C00Ct9HSOk-/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbOW04rRs\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/p/C00Ct9HSOk-/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbOW04rRs$)

Link concerning the coauthor's views implying Israel isn't a legitimate state:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/___https://www.instagram.com/p/Czf4_7YrjYp/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==___;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbw-dTye!\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/___https://www.instagram.com/p/Czf4_7YrjYp/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==___;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbw-dTye!$)

Response to sky news article debunking Lattouf, Wilson, and the Palestinian Action Group's claims:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/___https://www.instagram.com/reel/C03KPxbSZVg/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==___;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbKRyRcC8\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/___https://www.instagram.com/reel/C03KPxbSZVg/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==___;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbKRyRcC8$)

The ABC ombudsman has already issued a report regarding Miss Kannina, who was sacked from triple J regarding her anti Israel comments. The report cites the following "ABC standards require that all news and information is presented with due impartiality and takes into consideration the nature of the content, likely audience expectations and the contentiousness of the subject matter".

Thank you for your anticipated reflection, fairness and leadership.

Sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 9:34 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf in breach of ABC code of practice

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To David Anderson and
The ABC Board,

How can Antoinette Lattouf be appropriate to host the morning ABC Sydney show?

She has publicly proven to be anti-semitic and indirectly but clearly inciting violence and a call for the extermination of Jews by supporting the Muslim celebration of the killing and torture of Israelis and the brutal rapes of Israeli women. Besides signing that "letter", she openly supports Muslim extremism.

To say the least, Antoinette is not "impartial" on the war in the Middle East and publicly stated that "gas the Jews" at the Sydney Opera House was a lie.

As you well know there are witnesses and evidence that this occurred and she is denying this publicly.

This is very dangerous. This is like denying the holocaust ever happened on the ABC.

What are the consequences of her public denial of this and her aggressive Anti-Semitic approach?

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 9:20 PM
To: Board
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern

Im writing to express my concern and real disappointment that Antoinette Lattouf has said that “gas the jews and kill the jews” was never said on the Opera House steps on October 8th. She is meant to be an investigative journalist yet she is a proposing that true facts never happened. There are eyewitnesses and recordings of the chants yet she is manipulating the narrative. A journalist who can distort facts is dangerous and unprofessional. I believe her bias is undermining the integrity of the ABC’s credibility.

Claus 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Ms Lattouf is a breach of this. Further by making her a tv host will no doubt give her a platform to more freely twist the truth and manipulate the conversation to spread her hateful agenda. People with ethics such as Ms Lattouf are the most dangerous to honest society. I humbly request she is removed from being a host of an ABC morning show.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 9:06 PM
To: minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au
Cc: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board
Subject: Re: Message sent via ministerial website - ABC - your copy of details [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

On 18 Dec 2023, at 9:03 pm, ministerinfrastructure.noreply@govcms.gov.au wrote:

Submitted on Mon, 2023-12-18 21:03

Subject
ABC

Message

How is Antoinette Lattouf still hosting the morning ABC Sydney show?

Antoinette is not impartial on the war in the Middle East and what are the consequences for her stating that “gas the Jews” at the Sydney Opera House was a lie.

CC

1. ABC Ombudsman
<https://www.abc.net.au/contact/complain.htm> [abc.net.au]
2. David Anderson, Managing Director of the ABC david.anderson@abc.net.au
3. ABC Board board@your.abc.net.au

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 8:30 PM
To: Board
Subject: IABC breach of Code of Practice - Lattouf
Attachments: image_123650291.JPG

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear ABC Board,

I would like to understand how Ms Lattouf is the correspondent for the ABC for reporting on the Middle East.

The ABC has a statutory duty to ensure that the gathering and presentation of news and information is impartial according to the recognised standards of objective journalism.

ABC Editorial Policy Standard 4.1 notes that there is a requirement to "Gather and present news and information with due impartiality."

Ms Lattouf is known for her anti-Israel stance. For example, she recently authored an article in Crikey questioning the legitimacy of the "gas the Jews" chants heard at the Sydney Opera House protest on October 8

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2023/12/13/viral-footage-gas-the-jews-police-factcheckers-unverified/>

There have now been 4 statutory declarations by independent witnesses (some of whom are not part of the Jewish community) attesting to these chants being heard at the Opera House.

Ms Lattouf's attached tweet on 25 November 2023 reads "We need a PERMANENT ceasefire and to address the ROOT of the problem - unlawful occupation of Palestine." She clearly believes Israel's "occupation" of Gaza, is the cause of the current conflict. I note that Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005.

As outlined above, the ABC's Editorial Standards require impartiality. A broadcaster operating under statute with public funds is legitimately expected to contribute in ways that may differ from commercial media, which are free to be partial to private interests.

Ms Lattouf is clearly not impartial on Israel. The ABC is in breach of its own policies by allowing her to continue to report on the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Please advise how you will immediately stop the ABC's partial reporting on the Israel-Gaza conflict and hold Management to account for this egregious breach of the ABC's Editorial standards.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]



Log in

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Antoinette Lattouf

@antoinette_news

Follow



Watching Israeli hostages & Palestinian children who've been imprisoned reunited with loved ones is truly heartwarming. They should never have had to endure these atrocities. We need a PERMANENT ceasefire and to address the ROOT of the problem - unlawful occupation of Palestine

10:09 PM · Nov 25, 2023 · 7,651 Views

34 Reposts

2 Quotes

175 Likes

1 Bookmark



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 7:41 PM
To: Board
Subject: Lattouf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Why are you allowing a blatant anti semite like Ms Lattouf host your morning show!!
Is it wrong of so many levels!
Shame on ABC again!!!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 7:36 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board
Subject: Concerns Regarding Antoinette Lattouf's Presence on ABC radio Sydney

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear David Anderson and ABC board,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the presence of Antoinette Lattouf on the ABC. This is federal government radio and it is my belief that her views, particularly those related to the Middle East conflict, are not impartial and thus not in the best interests of the general community in Sydney.

I am troubled by Ms. Lattouf's bias as evidenced by her stance on opposing the authenticity of the "gas the Jews" chants at the Sydney Opera House. Her actions, in my opinion, contribute to a rewriting of history that is not only inaccurate but also harmful.

I kindly request that you thoroughly investigate this matter and consider the potential impact of Ms. Lattouf's antisemitic views on the public discourse. It is crucial that government-funded platforms prioritize impartiality and accuracy to serve the diverse community they represent.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 7:33 PM
To: Board
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Board Member,
Mr Anderson,

how is it that Antoinette Lattouf is hosting the morning ABC Sydney show?

Antoinette is not impartial on the war in the Middle East. And what are the consequences for her stating that “gas the Jews” at the Sydney Opera House was a lie?

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 4:54 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board
Subject: Message sent via ministerial website - ABC radio host Antoinette Latouf is not fit for the role - your copy of details [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Subject

ABC radio host Antoinette Latouf is not fit for the role

Message

I am a regular listener to ABC radio but am appalled to hear today the voice of Antoinette Latouf. Some fact checking by yourselves will show she is absolutely inappropriate to represent ABC having recently concocted a story that "the Jews" doctored the tapes from the Opera House pro Palestinian/ anti Israel/ Anti Jew rally claiming the words " gas the Jews" were never uttered. She has failed to take this back after being proven wrong. Are you wanting an Anti Semite, conspiracy theorist representing yourselves- it is a BREACH of your own charter. Fire her!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 4:11 PM
To: Board
Subject: ABC breach of code

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Antoinette Lattouf is a biased host of the morning ABC Sydney show and she foments division and rancour within our community.

Antoinette has a record: she is not impartial on Middle East issues and antisemitism. She denies reports of chants of "gas the Jews" at the Sydney Opera House, despite direct video evidence and the testimony of several primary witnesses who attended the event.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

Copied to

1. Michelle Rowland, Minister for Communication
2. ABC MD
3. ABC Board

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 4:05 PM
To: Board
Subject: Fwd: ABC's antisemitic presenter Antoinette Lattouf is not a fit person to present on the ABC

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the board of the ABC,
The ABC should not stoke promote, justify or support the spread of Antisemitic hate in Australia, but platforming biased and vitriolic presenters such as Antoinette Lattouf.

My 12 year old son commented to me with great insight "I have always thought of myself as a Jewish Australian. However facing extraordinary levels of antisemitism, I now very much see I am an Australian Jew. Maybe this country is not safe for us."

Please think about how betrayed Jewish Australians are feeling right now and how the ABC has and continues to be complicit in spreading hateful antisemitism by failing to call out terrorism, choosing biased witnesses such as the antisemite Francesca Albanese and the criminal liar Masri on Q&A and falsely presenting fringe perspectives such as Louise Adler as representative of a "Jewish perspective" not to mention platforming Hamas terrorist leaders on 730 report. ABC continues to present Hamas derived Gaza casualty figures without declaring the source as from murderous terrorists and unverified.

Please read my email below.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Subject: ABC's antisemitic presenter Antoinette Lattouf is not a fit person to present on the ABC

Dear David,


Antoinette Lattouf is not an impartial Journalist. She is an antisemite, spreading lies to demonise Jews, including denial of antisemitic events in Australia such as the gas the Jews and fuck the Jews chants at the hate rally which celebrated the massacre, mass rape and kidnapping of Jews in Israel on October 7th which occurred on October 9th, prior to any Israeli military defensive action in Gaza.

She has posted untrue and antisemitic false allegations on her social media account accusing IDF of rape - aiming to somehow balance and minimise true brutal Hamas rape and minimise Jewish suffering. I have photographic evidence of the instagram story referenced. These lies were widely shared, including by at least one Medical practitioner Dr Izzi Smith who also has a huge social media following.




doctorizzyksmith 19h



I believe Israeli women. As a feminist, I'm appalled by reports of sexual violence on Oct 7. 

Sadly, there's almost never been a conflict where rape hasn't been used as a tool of war. This should horrify and galvanise the masses.

It is also dangerous and disingenuous to discuss Hamas using rape as a tool of war without acknowledging that Israeli forces do too, and have done so, as long as there's been an Israel.

@antoINETte_lattouf 

@antoINETte_lattouf

Send message



Lattouf has appropriated terms such as genocide to trigger trans generational Jewish suffering in the memory of the Holocaust and recent brutal Hamas murder of Jews because victims were Jewish and to falsely accuse descendants of victims of crimes against humanity of the same crimes.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0xmvJcSPtM/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>

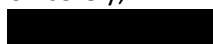
She is not a fit person to present on the ABC which should not support her racist antisemitic agenda.

The Australian Jewish community is experiencing unprecedented antisemitism. Please reflect that the ABC is complicit in responsibility for this by presenting lies, falsehoods and direct antisemitic actions such as Lattouf promoting boycott of Jewish businesses.

Which other community has suffered such vitriole and local discrimination and abuse related to any foreign conflict?

The ABC is funded by Australian tax payers. Government funded complicity in deplorable antisemitism is unacceptable.

Sincerely,



Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 2:12 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr Anderson,

I am writing with a concern that Antoinette Lattouf has been appointed as host of ABC mornings in Sydney. She is not impartial on the war in the middle east. Her recent suggestion that members of the Australian Jewish community falsely created videos showing people chanting "f\$%k the jews " "gas the jews", is highly antisemitic and of a huge concern. What are the consequences for Antoniette stating what happened at the Sydney Opera House was a lie?

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this cause.

regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:37 PM
To: Board
Subject: Radio 702 Sydney

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Board-members,

I am writing to you regarding the ABC's, the national broadcaster's, choice of acting morning radio show host on ABC 702 Sydney.

I am a taxpayer and regular audience member of this program and am well versed in how popular this show is, normally hosted by Sarah Macdonald and what a widespread audience it has.

Given the very difficult times we are experiencing currently due to the Israeli - Gaza war, and the various sensitivities held by both the Israeli/Jewish and Palestinian/Arab communities it would seem Ms Lattouff was not the best selection as the summer host.

I am talking specifically about her remarks on social media regarding the Opera House debacle on October 9th, a worldwide renowned event which has cast a very negative light on our city and country. Ms Lattouff in her widely broadcasted comments has suggested that there was some questionable accounts of the hate-speech calls 'fuck the Jews' and 'gas the Jews' and had not been verified.

I personally am affronted by her tasteless comments and subsequently the ABC's choice of summer host.

I have suffered a family loss in the war which resulted in me attending the Opera House that night, specifically to see the Israeli flag projected on the Opera House as a sign of solidarity and well before the war erupted.

Such projections were staged publicly in many, many cities around the world including Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane.

The projection was cancelled at the scheduled time due to the unruly and increasingly violent behaviour of the Palestinian crowd and their supporters.

I personally found this event absolutely petrifying. Despite the very large police presence I did not feel confident that my safety would be assured.

My request from one of the policeman to move to a safer spot was met with an abrasive and negative response. I left straight away.

I have found Ms Lattouff's anti-Jewish and Israelophobic attitude to the occurrence of events on October 9th abhorrent.

Her insulting words and insinuations are not only immensely triggering but bring into question my right as a Jewish Israeli Australian to enjoy public events in safe space.

As it stands I will be switching to another station during the summer period as I would be worried that Ms Lattouff's insensitive remarks and observations would be extremely upsetting to me.

Unless you believe in her assertions negating the Opera House incident and questioning first hand accounts of the occurrence, I would be urging you to liaise with the ABC management to withdraw this person from the show.

All of 'our' ABC's audiences should be afforded that right.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf is not impartial]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

:Subject: Message sent via ministerial website - Antoinette Lattouf is not impartial - your copy of details [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Reply-To: minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au

Submitted on Mon, 2023-12-18 12:42

Subject
Antoinette Lattouf is not impartial

Message
Antoinette Lattouf is not impartial on the war in the Middle East and what are the consequences for her stating that “gas the Jews” at the Sydney Opera House was a lie.
We all heard it.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial, and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TAB-33

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 3:45 PM
To: Simon Melkman
Cc: Ben Latimer
Subject: FW: Antoinette Latouff Emails / Chair's Office
Attachments: concern Antionette Lattouf ABC Radio Sydney Mornings; Ms Latouff Call To Action; Ms Latauff ; Antoinette Lattouff - morning ABC Sydney show; Ms Latouff denies claims re antisemitic protest; New appointment ; Complaint about appropriateness of Antoinette Lattouf to host morning ABC Sydney Radio show; Complaint regarding the choice of Antoinette Lattouf as the Morning announcer host on ABC Sydney; Antoinette Lattouf in breach of ABC code of practice; Antoinette Lattouff; Re Message sent via ministerial website - ABC - your copy of details [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]; IABC breach of Code of Practice - Lattouff; Lattouff; Concerns Regarding Antoinette Lattouff's Presence on ABC radio Sydney; Antoinette Lattouff. ; Message sent via ministerial website - ABC radio host Antoinette Latouf is not fit for the role - your copy of details [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]; ABC breach of code; Fwd ABC's antisemitic presenter Antoinette Lattouf is not a fit person to present on the ABC ; Antoinette Lattouff; Radio 702 Sydney; Concerns about Antoinette Lattouff; ABC bias...again; Antoinette Lattouf is not impartial]; ABC bias - Antoinette Lattouff ; Re Complaint about Antoinette Latouff.; Why is anti-Israel advocate hosting ABC show; Antoinette Lattouff; Complaint about Antoinette Latouff.; Fwd ABC - Antoinette Lattouf

Hi Simon,

You may have seen these letters of complaint. Many of them make claim that by engaging Ms Latouff, the ABC is in breach of clause 4 of the Code of Practice, calling into question the ABC's impartiality. I am not sure if this is correct, but clearly this is a hugely complex matter. Should the three of us get together this afternoon to discuss?

C

From: Lauren Stokes <Stokes.Lauren@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 3:28 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Cc: Vanessa Murray <Murray.Vanessa@abc.net.au>; Managing Director's Office <managingdirectorsoffice@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette Latouff Emails / Chair's Office

Dear Chris

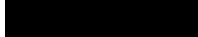
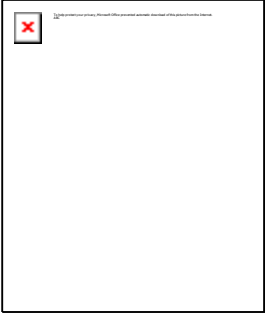
The Chair/Board has received several email complaints regarding Antoinette Latouff. After a discussion between Ita and David we've been advised to forward these emails to you - please find them attached.

A brief acknowledgement email has been sent to each of the attached emails from the Chair's Office.

Thank you Chris

Kind regards
Lauren

Lauren Stokes
Executive Assistant to the Chair



E: Stokes.Lauren@abc.net.au

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

[\[abc.net.au\]](http://abc.net.au)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 12:09 AM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board; Minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au
Subject: Complaint about appropriateness of Antoinette Lattouf to host: morning ABC Sydney Radio show

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Michelle Rowland, David Anderson, ABC Board

I'm seeking your leadership with regards to Ms Lattouf's presence on the ABC Sydney Radio show. Clause 4 of the ABC code of Practice is to be impartial. It is central to your promise to Australians and as evidence of this, the word "impartial" appears 10 times in your Code of Practice. Employing Ms Antoinette Lattouf is in breach of this important promise. I ask that you employ a different person who is genuinely impartial for this important role.

Ms Lattouf is not impartial on the war in the Middle East. Ms Lattouf's views on the war feature in her social media and/or opinion pieces each day. A viewer or reader is left with zero doubt as to her views, which are firmly Pro-Hamas and/or Pro-Palestinian. Someone who is impartial, is likely to choose to speak to broader interests to the Australian people and spend equal time and emphasis presenting all points of view. I worry that employing Ms Lattouf on ABC Radio risks it becoming akin to a propaganda arm of the Pro-Hamas Terrorist Group. Ms Lattouf's views are her subjective opinion which support her family background. It isn't appropriate for her to be presenting her "opinion" as "fact" when it is clearly one-sided.

Her first topic for discussion on the radio is Israel boycotts and how effective they are.

She has also signed the letter below to support ethical reporting on Israel and Palestine which was signed by over 3000 journalists, which proves she is not impartial.

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://form.jotform.com/233177455020046__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbdmz_dZY\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://form.jotform.com/233177455020046__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbdmz_dZY$)

This is a snippet of recent social media and opinion pieces from Ms Lattouf which clearly demonstrate her firm opinion and bias towards Palestinians.

Trivialization of a conflict, calling Israel cray cray, etc

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0xN56byzSl/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbCopoUK0\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0xN56byzSl/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbCopoUK0$)

Inferring that the "Gas the Jews" footage from the Opera House was doctored by Jews:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0xmvJcSPtM/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbS-L3Oyg\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0xmvJcSPtM/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbS-L3Oyg$)

Ms Lattouf's post is still live, despite the raw footage being shared / available as per this Sky News link.

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.skynews.com.au/opinion/sharri-markson/left-continues-to-deny-antisemitism-being-promoted-at-propalestine-protests/video/8b9b8ca78832cedd5808d87a373b9139__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbMnmutOo\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.skynews.com.au/opinion/sharri-markson/left-continues-to-deny-antisemitism-being-promoted-at-propalestine-protests/video/8b9b8ca78832cedd5808d87a373b9139__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbMnmutOo$)

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0yDH9Py_eO/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGb_UNylwA\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0yDH9Py_eO/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGb_UNylwA$)

Post promoting the crikey article on Lattouf's Instagram:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/p/C00Ct9HSOk-/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbOW04rRs\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/p/C00Ct9HSOk-/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbOW04rRs$)

Link concerning the coauthor's views implying Israel isn't a legitimate state:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/p/Czf4_7YrjYp/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbw-dTye!\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/p/Czf4_7YrjYp/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbw-dTye!$)

Response to sky news article debunking Lattouf, Wilson, and the Palestinian Action Group's claims:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/reel/C03KPxbSZVg/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbKRyRcC8\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.instagram.com/reel/C03KPxbSZVg/?igshid=NzBmMjdhZWRiYQ==__;!!FvZmfVE!E5zeFHRtlk7Z0f8PI8FTT4sCvN2TiJEN8AYOvRYAh2BHK6vxXhUq9FuLug_zGgTjhbOe1gZDTH-YOhX53cy_MUGbKRyRcC8$)

The ABC ombudsman has already issued a report regarding Miss Kannina, who was sacked from triple J regarding her anti Israel comments. The report cites the following "ABC standards require that all news and information is presented with due impartiality and takes into consideration the nature of the content, likely audience expectations and the contentiousness of the subject matter".

Thank you for your anticipated reflection, fairness and leadership.

Sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 12:05 PM
To: Board
Subject: concern Antionette Lattouf ABC Radio Sydney Mornings

Att: ABC BOARD

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of deep concern regarding the impartiality and adherence to the ABC code of practice by Ms. Latouff, the current host of the ABC Sydney Morning show.

It has come to my attention that Ms. Latouff's recent actions have raised serious questions about her impartiality, as outlined in Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice. I would like to highlight the following issues:

1. Ms. Latouff co-authored an article titled "Viral footage showed protesters chanting 'Gas the Jews'. Nobody can verify it" (Crikey, Dec 13 2023), which also featured on her socials and has been widely shared. The article casts unreasonable doubt on the validity of antisemitic rhetoric, "Gas the Jews", "Fuck the Jews" witnessed at the Opera House on October 8. The intent behind the article was to provide a false and skewed narrative according to Ms. Latouff's personal views on the War and particularly Jewish people, contributing to the alarming rise in antisemitism, which has surged by over 700% since October 7.
2. Ms. Latouff's endorsement of the MEAA Open Letter raises concerns about her impartiality in reporting on conflicts.
3. The role of an ABC host, who leads and adds commentary to news stories, demands a basic level of impartiality and adherence to the ABC codes. Ms. Latouff's actions, as outlined above, call into question her ability to meet these standards.
4. As a taxpayer-funded public broadcasting company, the ABC has a vital responsibility to maintain the highest standards of journalism. The current situation, with Ms. Latouff continuing to host prime time TV, constitutes a clear breach of this obligation.

I urgently request a comprehensive explanation of the steps the ABC plans to take to rectify this situation and restore the credibility of its reporting. Australians deserve accurate, unbiased information, and it is crucial that swift and decisive action be taken to address this issue. I anticipate your prompt attention to this matter and a thorough investigation into the concerning conduct of Ms. Latouff. At a time when journalism needs to be at its strongest, it is imperative that the ABC upholds its commitment to journalistic integrity.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 9:48 AM
To: Board
Subject: Ms Latouff: Call To Action

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear ABC Board Members,

Ms. Latouff's recent actions online have raised serious questions about her impartiality, as outlined in Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice. I would like to highlight the following issues:

Ms. Latouff co-authored an article titled "Viral footage showed protesters chanting 'Gas the Jews'. Nobody can verify it" (Crikey, Dec 13 2023), which also featured on her socials and has been widely shared. The article casts unreasonable doubt on the validity of antisemitic rhetoric, "Gas the Jews", "Fuck the Jews" witnessed at the Opera House on October 8.

Unfortunately, the intent behind the article was to provide a false and skewed narrative according to Ms. Latouff's personal views on the War and particularly Jewish people. This type of rhetoric contributes to the alarming rise in antisemitism, which has surged by over 700% since October 7.

Ms. Latouff's endorsement of the MEAA Open Letter raises serious concerns about her impartiality in reporting on conflicts.

The role of an ABC host, who leads and adds commentary to news stories, demands a basic level of impartiality and adherence to the ABC codes. Ms. Latouff's actions, as outlined above, clearly call into question her ability to meet these standards.

As a taxpayer-funded public broadcasting company, the ABC has a vital responsibility to maintain the highest standards of journalism. The current situation, with Ms. Latouff continuing to host prime time TV, constitutes a clear breach of this obligation.

I urgently request a comprehensive explanation of the steps the ABC plans to take to rectify this situation and restore the credibility of its reporting. Australians deserve accurate, unbiased information, and it is crucial that swift and decisive action be taken to address this issue.

Please provide prompt attention to this serious matter and follow through with a thorough investigation into the concerning conduct of Ms. Latouff .

At a time when journalism needs to be at its strongest, it is imperative that the ABC upholds its commitment to journalistic integrity, as well as helping to ensure impartiality and the best practice is maintained.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 8:46 AM
To: Board
Subject: Ms Latauff

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the board of the ABC

You are task with the job of providing Fair honest, unbiased reporting

With an exceptionally substantial budget of Tax Payer funds the ABC should be an outstanding and exemplary institution delivering the news.

Sadly, there are areas where bias and one-sided views against particularly the Jewish population occur.

One example which you can put a stop to and rectify is Ms Latouff as the current host of ABC Sydney morning show.

Please remove her from the show altogether

Ms Latouff was a co-author of The recent article from 13 December, where effectively using your platform, she calls into question significant antisemitic statements made at the Sydney Opera House saying they were not said.

She has breached your code of practice under clause 4.

She has shown on multiple occasions, her bias and anti-Semitic views.

Please, at the very least, remove her from hosting The Morning Show, and after reviewing, this might end with you sacking her for breaching the journalistic code of conduct, and your own code of practice.

There should be no place on the ABC for one sided views.

Please see a letter below From [REDACTED] stating a similar case

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr.Anderson

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of deep concern regarding the impartiality and adherence to the ABC code of practice by Ms. Latouff, the current host of the ABC Sydney Morning show.

It has come to my attention that Ms. Latouff's recent actions have raised serious questions about her impartiality, as outlined in Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice. I would like to highlight the following issues:

Ms. Latouff co-authored an article titled "Viral footage showed protesters chanting 'Gas the Jews'. Nobody can verify it" (Crikey, Dec 13 2023), which also featured on her socials and has been widely shared. The article casts unreasonable doubt on the validity of antisemitic rhetoric, "Gas the Jews", "Fuck the Jews" witnessed at the Opera House on October 8. The intent behind the article was to provide a false and skewed narrative according to Ms. Latouff's personal views on the War and particularly Jewish people, contributing to the alarming rise in antisemitism, which has surged by over 700% since October 7.

Ms. Latouff's endorsement of the MEAA Open Letter raises concerns about her impartiality in reporting on conflicts. The role of an ABC host, who leads and adds commentary to news stories, demands a basic level of impartiality and adherence to the ABC codes. Ms. Latouff's actions, as outlined above, call into question her ability to meet these standards.

As a taxpayer-funded public broadcasting company, the ABC has a vital responsibility to maintain the highest standards of journalism. The current situation, with Ms. Latouff continuing to host prime time TV, constitutes a clear breach of this obligation.

I urgently request a comprehensive explanation of the steps the ABC plans to take to rectify this situation and restore the credibility of its reporting. Australians deserve accurate, unbiased information, and it is crucial that swift and decisive action be taken to address this issue.

I anticipate your prompt attention to this matter and a thorough investigation into the concerning conduct of Ms. Latouff. At a time when journalism needs to be at its strongest, it is imperative that the ABC upholds its commitment to journalistic integrity.

Sincerely,



Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 7:20 AM
To: Minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au
Cc: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board
Subject: Antoinette Lattouff - morning ABC Sydney show

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Minister Rowland, David Anderson and esteemed ABC Board members,

I am wiring to you regarding Antoinette Lattouff is supposedly unbiased and impartial on the morning ABC Sydney Show.

Antoinette is not impartial on the war in the Middle East and what are the consequences for her stating that “gas the Jews” at the Sydney Opera House was a lie, when it had been proven that this was said.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

I would appreciate a response.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 7:11 AM
To: Board; David N Anderson - Managing Director
Subject: Ms Latouff denies claims re antisemitic protest

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr.Anderson

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of deep concern regarding the impartiality and adherence to the ABC code of practice by Ms. Latouff, the current host of the ABC Sydney Morning show. It has come to my attention that Ms. Latouff's recent actions have raised serious questions about her impartiality, as outlined in Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice. I would like to highlight the following issues: Ms. Latouff co-authored an article titled "Viral footage showed protesters chanting 'Gas the Jews'. Nobody can verify it" (Crikey, Dec 13 2023), which also featured on her socials and has been widely shared. The article casts unreasonable doubt on the validity of antisemitic rhetoric, "Gas the Jews", "Fuck the Jews" witnessed at the Opera House on October 8. The intent behind the article was to provide a false and skewed narrative according to Ms. Latouff's personal views on the War and particularly Jewish people, contributing to the alarming rise in antisemitism, which has surged by over 700% since October 7. Ms. Latouff's endorsement of the MEAA Open Letter raises concerns about her impartiality in reporting on conflicts. The role of an ABC host, who leads and adds commentary to news stories, demands a basic level of impartiality and adherence to the ABC codes. Ms. Latouff's actions, as outlined above, call into question her ability to meet these standards. As a taxpayer-funded public broadcasting company, the ABC has a vital responsibility to maintain the highest standards of journalism. The current situation, with Ms. Latouff continuing to host prime time TV, constitutes a clear breach of this obligation. I urgently request a comprehensive explanation of the steps the ABC plans to take to rectify this situation and restore the credibility of its reporting. Australians deserve accurate, unbiased information, and it is crucial that swift and decisive action be taken to address this issue. I anticipate your prompt attention to this matter and a thorough investigation into the concerning conduct of Ms. Latouff. At a time when journalism needs to be at its strongest, it is imperative that the ABC upholds its commitment to journalistic integrity.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 7:02 AM
To: Board
Subject: New appointment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the Board of the ABC

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of deep concern regarding the impartiality and adherence to the ABC code of practice by Ms. Latouff, the current host of the ABC Sydney Morning show.

It has come to my attention that Ms. Latouff's recent actions have raised serious questions about her impartiality, as outlined in Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice. I would like to highlight the following issues:

Ms. Latouff co-authored an article titled "Viral footage showed protesters chanting 'Gas the Jews'. Nobody can verify it" (Crikey, Dec 13 2023), which also featured on her socials and has been widely shared. The article casts unreasonable doubt on the validity of antisemitic rhetoric, "Gas the Jews", "Fuck the Jews" witnessed at the Opera House on October 8. The intent behind the article was to provide a false and skewed narrative according to Ms. Latouff's personal views on the War and particularly Jewish people, contributing to the alarming rise in antisemitism, which has surged by over 700% since October 7.

Ms. Latouff's endorsement of the MEAA Open Letter raises concerns about her impartiality in reporting on conflicts. The role of an ABC host, who leads and adds commentary to news stories, demands a basic level of impartiality and adherence to the ABC codes. Ms. Latouff's actions, as outlined above, call into question her ability to meet these standards.

As a taxpayer-funded public broadcasting company, the ABC has a vital responsibility to maintain the highest standards of journalism. The current situation, with Ms. Latouff continuing to host prime time TV, constitutes a clear breach of this obligation.

I urgently request a comprehensive explanation of the steps the ABC plans to take to rectify this situation and restore the credibility of its reporting. Australians deserve accurate, unbiased information, and it is crucial that swift and decisive action be taken to address this issue.

I anticipate your prompt attention to this matter and a thorough investigation into the concerning conduct of Ms. Latouff. At a time when journalism needs to be at its strongest, it is imperative that the ABC upholds its commitment to journalistic integrity.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:51 PM
To: Board; David N Anderson - Managing Director
Subject: Concerns about Antoinette Lattouf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr Anderson and the ABC Board

I am writing with concerns regarding Antoinette Lattouf hosting the morning ABC Sydney show.

Antoinette is not impartial on the war in the Middle East and her content on Instagram is blatantly antisemitic and hateful. One example is her stating that "gas the Jews" at the Sydney Opera House was a lie. This was filmed and widely shared.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

The ABC is a national broadcaster and should represent ALL Australians and not some. Allowing such an overt antisemite to have such a prominent broadcasting role should not be allowed. Whatever she says in private is a direct reflection on the values of the ABC and Annette does not represent the Australian values of multiculturalism and tolerance.

The ABC needs to take action and remove Antoinette Lattouf from all hosting and journalism duties.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:50 PM
To: Board
Subject: ABC bias...again

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear ABC board,

My family has lived peacefully in Australia as Jews for nine generations and we are currently experiencing the worst anti-semitism in Australia in my family's history.

I am writing to ask you to take action regarding Antoinette Lattouf who is hosting the morning ABC Sydney show.

Of course today's discussion is on boycotts. Why is it that when one discusses boycotts the focus is on Israel? Where is the outrage at Syria, China, Sudan, Yemen...?

Antoinette is not impartial on the war in the Middle East. What are the consequences for her stating that "gas the Jews" at the Sydney Opera House was a lie? She is the last person who should be hosting this show at such a heated time when she has so obviously shown her true colors.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

I ask that you immediately take action and find presenters who are not inflammatory, unbiased and contribute in a positive way.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:43 PM
To: Board
Subject: ABC bias - Antoinette Lattouf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I write to ask how Antoinette Lattouf is permitted to be hosting the morning ABC Sydney show.

Antoinette is not impartial on the war in the Middle East. She has repeatedly shown her bias. I am wondering what the consequences are for her stating that "gas the Jews" at the Sydney Opera House was a lie.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

Given the staggering increase in antisemitism in Australia since October 7, continuing to provide this clearly bad faith actor (seeking to discredit and minimise the Jewish community's lived experience of such antisemitism) is repugnant and in breach of the ABC code of conduct.

I have written to Minister Rowlands and ABC Managing director David Anderson, asking the same questions.

I await your reply as to the action you are taking

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:40 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director
Cc: Board
Subject: Complaint about Antoinette Latouff.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr Anderson and all those it concerns,

I am writing to communicate my extreme disappointment in seeing that Antoinette Latouff is hosting the abc morning show.

Antoinette has recently made videos and written articles bringing into question whether 'gas the Jews' was changed at the Sydney opera house.

This incident at The Opera House was an embarrassment to Australia and has been verified by eye witnesses and video proof. Antoinette's claims were highly irresponsible and caused great distress for me personally. As the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors I am not exaggerating when I say how much pain it caused me.

It was a gift to those who are falling for the antisemitic trope of Jews being liars. Unfortunately; at a time of such rise in antisemitism it caused many to jump at the chance to hurl antisemitic abuse. For me personally, I could not sleep the night her article and video came out and she has not retracted it since proof has come out - even though the coauthor of Antoinette's article has made corrections on X (formerly Twitter). Since then, abc radio has latched on to this skepticism and questioned Deborah Conway in her interview about whether 'gas the Jews' was in fact said.

Clause 4 of the ABC code is to be impartial and Antoinette is clearly not impartial regarding the Israel/gaza war. She is not impartial and she has brought her journalistic integrity into disrepute.

Please ensure that ABC does not give her the platform.

Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:41 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director
Cc: Board
Subject: Re: Complaint about Antoinette Latouff.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Excuse I forgot to put my name at the end of the letter.

Signed,
[REDACTED]

On Mon, 18 Dec 2023 at 12:39, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr Anderson and all those it concerns,

I am writing to communicate my extreme disappointment in seeing that Antoinette Latouff is hosting the abc morning show.

Antoinette has recently made videos and written articles bringing into question whether 'gas the Jews' was changed at the Sydney opera house.

This incident at The Opera House was an embarrassment to Australia and has been verified by eye witnesses and video proof. Antoinette's claims were highly irresponsible and caused great distress for me personally. As the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors I am not exaggerating when I say how much pain it caused me.

It was a gift to those who are falling for the antisemitic trope of Jews being liars. Unfortunately; at a time of such rise in antisemitism it caused many to jump at the chance to hurl antisemitic abuse. For me personally, I could not sleep the night her article and video came out and she has not retracted it since proof has come out - even though the coauthor of Antoinette's article has made corrections on X (formerly Twitter). Since then, abc radio has latched on to this skepticism and questioned Deborah Conway in her interview about whether 'gas the Jews' was in fact said.

Clause 4 of the ABC code is to be impartial and Antoinette is clearly not impartial regarding the Israel/gaza war. She is not impartial and she has brought her journalistic integrity into disrepute.

Please ensure that ABC does not give her the platform.

Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:40 PM
To: Minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au
Cc: Board; David N Anderson - Managing Director; Ombudsman's Office
Subject: Why is anti-Israel advocate hosting ABC show?

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

How is it possible that Antoinette Latouff is hosting a show on the ABC in Sydney? She is chief proponent of the lie that an egregious act of anti-Semitism ("gas the Jews" chants of October 8) did not actually take place. It's basically having a Holocaust Denier employed as a host on our national broadcaster!

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:35 PM
To: Justin Stevens; Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Simon Melkman; Managing Director's Office
Subject: FW: ABC - Antoinette Lattouf

Both,

I've started to get many complaints about Antoinette. I'll send some others. I think Antoinette is News but I can see some science based reporting too for Catalyst.

Can someone please look into it.

Thanks,

David

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 18 December 2023 at 12:35 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Cc: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: ABC - Antoinette Lattouf

Dear Mr Anderson and the ABC Board

Please find below an impassioned letter I wrote earlier to Minister Rowland. I have forwarded it to all of you in the hope that you can enforce your own Code of Practice by both recognising the problematic nature of allowing this person to continue to use the ABC as a platform for her spouting her biased views, incitement to prejudice, and consequently fragmentation of social cohesion. Please do not give her 'air'.

Yours

[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: ABC - Antoinette Lattouf
Date: 18 December 2023 at 12:10:31 pm AEDT
To: Minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au

Dear Minister Rowland

Just wondering why is it that the ABC has chosen to defy its own Code of Practice. According to Clause 4 the ABC has a statutory duty to ensure that the gathering and presentation of news and information is impartial according to the recognised standards of objective journalism.

Why is it then the ABC has employed Antoinette Lattouf to host the morning ABC Sydney show? This person has very loudly, clearly and widely announced her partiality regarding the current crisis in the Middle East. Most recently she has cast doubt on the veracity of the Sydney Opera House

demonstration where the vile antisemitic chants were recorded. The constant theme of her recent posts have been all slanted into the condemnation of Israel, dissemination of false statistics, and the promulgation of antizionist [aka antisemitic] rhetoric. There has been no equivalent decrying of the brutality of Hamas's October 7 bloodbath, nor of the rape and mutilation of women and girls, not condemning the taking and holding of hostages in unspeakable conditions or calls for their release. There is no equivalence in this and clearly no balanced or impartial view.

The tragedy of the current Israel-Gaza war is overwhelming and what is even more distressing in Australia is the social divisiveness and increase in reported antisemitic incidents [over 750% since October 7 that are a consequence.

No one is winning in this tragic set of events but the harmony of the multicultural Australia we all aspire to reside in is also being broken. In part due to the agitation and bias being disseminated by people like Antoinette Lattouf. More concerning is that she is using the ABC to bolster her credibility and exposure. The ABC is then used as a platform for her to spread and promulgate hatred and social dissension.

Please live up to the Honourable part of your title and ensure that the ABC abides by its own Code of Practice.

Please do not allow this woman unfettered access to a wider audience than she already has. Lets all try and return to the civil society which we had.

Yours in hope

██████████

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 10:23 PM
To: Board
Subject: Complaint regarding the choice of Antoinette Lattouf as the Morning announcer/
host on ABC Sydney

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the attention of the Board of the ABC,

I have written to the Minister for Communications, Minister Rowland about the above matter.

My email reads:

Dear Minister Rowland,

As you are the minister in charge of Communications, I wanted to lodge a formal complaint about the ABC, our national broadcaster, and more specifically ABC Sydney radio's decision to employ Antoinette Lattouf to host the Morning program.

Ms Lattouf is widely known for her stance on the Middle East and she is not impartial. She has been known to say that the chanting of 'Gas the Jews' at the Opera House never occurred.

I understand that Clause 4 of the ABC Code of Practice states that employees should be impartial and employing Ms Latouff is a breach of this clause.

Can you please explain how the decision was made to employ Ms Lattouf?

I await your response to the above.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 9:34 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf in breach of ABC code of practice

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To David Anderson and
The ABC Board,

How can Antoinette Lattouf be appropriate to host the morning ABC Sydney show?

She has publicly proven to be anti-semitic and indirectly but clearly inciting violence and a call for the extermination of Jews by supporting the Muslim celebration of the killing and torture of Israelis and the brutal rapes of Israeli women. Besides signing that "letter", she openly supports Muslim extremism.

To say the least, Antoinette is not "impartial" on the war in the Middle East and publicly stated that "gas the Jews" at the Sydney Opera House was a lie.

As you well know there are witnesses and evidence that this occurred and she is denying this publicly.

This is very dangerous. This is like denying the holocaust ever happened on the ABC.

What are the consequences of her public denial of this and her aggressive Anti-Semitic approach?

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 9:20 PM
To: Board
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern

Im writing to express my concern and real disappointment that Antoinette Lattouf has said that “gas the jews and kill the jews” was never said on the Opera House steps on October 8th. She is meant to be an investigative journalist yet she is a proposing that true facts never happened. There are eyewitnesses and recordings of the chants yet she is manipulating the narrative. A journalist who can distort facts is dangerous and unprofessional. I believe her bias is undermining the integrity of the ABC’s credibility.

Claus 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Ms Lattouf is a breach of this. Further by making her a tv host will no doubt give her a platform to more freely twist the truth and manipulate the conversation to spread her hateful agenda. People with ethics such as Ms Lattouf are the most dangerous to honest society. I humbly request she is removed from being a host of an ABC morning show.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 9:06 PM
To: minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au
Cc: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board
Subject: Re: Message sent via ministerial website - ABC - your copy of details [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

On 18 Dec 2023, at 9:03 pm, ministerinfrastructure.noreply@govcms.gov.au wrote:

Submitted on Mon, 2023-12-18 21:03

Subject
ABC

Message

How is Antoinette Lattouf still hosting the morning ABC Sydney show?

Antoinette is not impartial on the war in the Middle East and what are the consequences for her stating that “gas the Jews” at the Sydney Opera House was a lie.

CC

1. ABC Ombudsman
<https://www.abc.net.au/contact/complain.htm> [abc.net.au]
2. David Anderson, Managing Director of the ABC david.anderson@abc.net.au
3. ABC Board board@your.abc.net.au

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 8:30 PM
To: Board
Subject: IABC breach of Code of Practice - Lattouf
Attachments: image_123650291.JPG

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear ABC Board,

I would like to understand how Ms Lattouf is the correspondent for the ABC for reporting on the Middle East.

The ABC has a statutory duty to ensure that the gathering and presentation of news and information is impartial according to the recognised standards of objective journalism.

ABC Editorial Policy Standard 4.1 notes that there is a requirement to "Gather and present news and information with due impartiality."

Ms Lattouf is known for her anti-Israel stance. For example, she recently authored an article in Crikey questioning the legitimacy of the "gas the Jews" chants heard at the Sydney Opera House protest on October 8

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2023/12/13/viral-footage-gas-the-jews-police-factcheckers-unverified/>

There have now been 4 statutory declarations by independent witnesses (some of whom are not part of the Jewish community) attesting to these chants being heard at the Opera House.

Ms Lattouf's attached tweet on 25 November 2023 reads "We need a PERMANENT ceasefire and to address the ROOT of the problem - unlawful occupation of Palestine." She clearly believes Israel's "occupation" of Gaza, is the cause of the current conflict. I note that Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005.

As outlined above, the ABC's Editorial Standards require impartiality. A broadcaster operating under statute with public funds is legitimately expected to contribute in ways that may differ from commercial media, which are free to be partial to private interests.

Ms Lattouf is clearly not impartial on Israel. The ABC is in breach of its own policies by allowing her to continue to report on the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Please advise how you will immediately stop the ABC's partial reporting on the Israel-Gaza conflict and hold Management to account for this egregious breach of the ABC's Editorial standards.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]



Log in

Sign up



Antoinette Lattouf

@antoinette_news

Follow



Watching Israeli hostages & Palestinian children who've been imprisoned reunited with loved ones is truly heartwarming. They should never have had to endure these atrocities. We need a PERMANENT ceasefire and to address the ROOT of the problem - unlawful occupation of Palestine

10:09 PM · Nov 25, 2023 · 7,651 Views

34 Reposts

2 Quotes

175 Likes

1 Bookmark



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 7:41 PM
To: Board
Subject: Lattouf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Why are you allowing a blatant anti semite like Ms Lattouf host your morning show!!
Is it wrong of so many levels!
Shame on ABC again!!!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 7:36 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board
Subject: Concerns Regarding Antoinette Lattouf's Presence on ABC radio Sydney

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear David Anderson and ABC board,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the presence of Antoinette Lattouf on the ABC. This is federal government radio and it is my belief that her views, particularly those related to the Middle East conflict, are not impartial and thus not in the best interests of the general community in Sydney.

I am troubled by Ms. Lattouf's bias as evidenced by her stance on opposing the authenticity of the "gas the Jews" chants at the Sydney Opera House. Her actions, in my opinion, contribute to a rewriting of history that is not only inaccurate but also harmful.

I kindly request that you thoroughly investigate this matter and consider the potential impact of Ms. Lattouf's antisemitic views on the public discourse. It is crucial that government-funded platforms prioritize impartiality and accuracy to serve the diverse community they represent.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 7:33 PM
To: Board
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Board Member,
Mr Anderson,

how is it that Antoinette Lattouf is hosting the morning ABC Sydney show?

Antoinette is not impartial on the war in the Middle East. And what are the consequences for her stating that “gas the Jews” at the Sydney Opera House was a lie?

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 4:54 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board
Subject: Message sent via ministerial website - ABC radio host Antoinette Latouf is not fit for the role - your copy of details [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Subject
ABC radio host Antoinette Latouf is not fit for the role

Message
I am a regular listener to ABC radio but am appalled to hear today the voice of Antoinette Latouf. Some fact checking by yourselves will show she is absolutely inappropriate to represent ABC having recently concocted a story that “the Jews” doctored the tapes from the Opera House pro Palestinian/ anti Israel/ Anti Jew rally claiming the words “ gas the Jews” were never uttered. She has failed to take this back after being proven wrong.
Are you wanting an Anti Semite, conspiracy theorist representing yourselves- it is a BREACH of your own charter. Fire her!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 4:11 PM
To: Board
Subject: ABC breach of code

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Antoinette Lattouf is a biased host of the morning ABC Sydney show and she foments division and rancour within our community.

Antoinette has a record: she is not impartial on Middle East issues and antisemitism. She denies reports of chants of "gas the Jews" at the Sydney Opera House, despite direct video evidence and the testimony of several primary witnesses who attended the event.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

Copied to
1. Michelle Rowland, Minister for Communication
2. ABC MD
3. ABC Board

Regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 4:05 PM
To: Board
Subject: Fwd: ABC's antisemitic presenter Antoinette Lattouf is not a fit person to present on the ABC

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the board of the ABC,
The ABC should not stoke promote, justify or support the spread of Antisemitic hate in Australia, but platforming biased and vitriolic presenters such as Antoinette Lattouf.

My 12 year old son commented to me with great insight "I have always thought of myself as a Jewish Australian. However facing extraordinary levels of antisemitism, I now very much see I am an Australian Jew. Maybe this country is not safe for us."

Please think about how betrayed Jewish Australians are feeling right now and how the ABC has and continues to be complicit in spreading hateful antisemitism by failing to call out terrorism, choosing biased witnesses such as the antisemite Francesca Albanese and the criminal liar Masri on Q&A and falsely presenting fringe perspectives such as Louise Adler as representative of a "Jewish perspective" not to mention platforming Hamas terrorist leaders on 730 report. ABC continues to present Hamas derived Gaza casualty figures without declaring the source as from murderous terrorists and unverified.

Please read my email below.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Subject: ABC's antisemitic presenter Antoinette Lattouf is not a fit person to present on the ABC

Dear David,

Antoinette Lattouf is not an impartial Journalist. She is an antisemite, spreading lies to demonise Jews, including denial of antisemitic events in Australia such as the gas the Jews and fuck the Jews chants at the hate rally which celebrated the massacre, mass rape and kidnapping of Jews in Israel on October 7th which occurred on October 9th, prior to any Israeli military defensive action in Gaza.

She has posted untrue and antisemitic false allegations on her social media account accusing IDF of rape - aiming to somehow balance and minimise true brutal Hamas rape and minimise Jewish suffering. I have photographic evidence of the instagram story referenced. These lies were widely shared, including by at least one Medical practitioner Dr Izzi Smith who also has a huge social media following.



doctorizzyksmith 19h



I believe Israeli women. As a feminist, I'm appalled by reports of sexual violence on Oct 7.

Sadly, there's almost never been a conflict where rape hasn't been used as a tool of war. This should horrify and galvanise the masses.

It is also dangerous and disingenuous to discuss Hamas using rape as a tool of war without acknowledging that Israeli forces do too, and have done so, as long as there's been an Israel.

@antoINETte_lattouf

@antoINETte_lattouf

Send message



Lattouf has appropriated terms such as genocide to trigger trans generational Jewish suffering in the memory of the Holocaust and recent brutal Hamas murder of Jews because victims were Jewish and to falsely accuse descendants of victims of crimes against humanity of the same crimes.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0xmvJcSPtM/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>

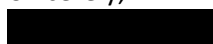
She is not a fit person to present on the ABC which should not support her racist antisemitic agenda.

The Australian Jewish community is experiencing unprecedented antisemitism. Please reflect that the ABC is complicit in responsibility for this by presenting lies, falsehoods and direct antisemitic actions such as Lattouf promoting boycott of Jewish businesses.

Which other community has suffered such vitriole and local discrimination and abuse related to any foreign conflict?

The ABC is funded by Australian tax payers. Government funded complicity in deplorable antisemitism is unacceptable.

Sincerely,



Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 2:12 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director; Board
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr Anderson,

I am writing with a concern that Antoinette Lattouf has been appointed as host of ABC mornings in Sydney. She is not impartial on the war in the middle east. Her recent suggestion that members of the Australian Jewish community falsely created videos showing people chanting "f\$%k the jews " "gas the jews", is highly antisemitic and of a huge concern. What are the consequences for Antoniette stating what happened at the Sydney Opera House was a lie?

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this cause.

regards,
[REDACTED]

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:36 PM
To: Justin Stevens; Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Simon Melkman
Subject: FW: ABC 702 Sydney

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 18 December 2023 at 1:34 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: ABC 702 Sydney

Dear Mr Anderson,

I am writing to you regarding the ABC's, the national broadcaster's, choice of acting morning radio show host on ABC 702 Sydney.

I am a taxpayer and regular audience member of this program and am well versed in how popular this show is, normally hosted by Sarah Macdonald and what a widespread audience it has.

Given the very difficult times we are experiencing currently due to the Israeli - Gaza war, and the various sensitivities held by both the Israeli/Jewish and Palestinian/Arab communities it would seem Ms Lattouff was not the best selection as the summer host.

I am talking specifically about her remarks on social media regarding the Opera House debacle on October 9th, a worldwide renowned event which has cast a very negative light on our city and country. Ms Lattouff in her widely broadcasted comments has suggested that there was some questionable accounts of the hate-speech calls 'fuck the Jews' and 'gas the Jews' and had not been verified.

I personally am affronted by her tasteless comments and subsequently the ABC's choice of summer host.

I have suffered a family loss in the war which resulted in me attending the Opera House that night, specifically to see the Israeli flag projected on the Opera House as a sign of solidarity and well before the war erupted. Such projections were staged publicly in many, many cities around the world including Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane.

The projection was cancelled at the scheduled time due to the unruly and increasingly violent behaviour of the Palestinian crowd and their supporters.

I personally found this event absolutely petrifying. Despite the very large police presence I did not feel confident that my safety would be assured.

My request from one of the policeman to move to a safer spot was met with an abrasive and negative response. I left straight away.

I have found Ms Lattouff's anti-Jewish and Israelophobic attitude to the occurrence of events on October 9th abhorrent.

Her insulting words and insinuations are not only immensely triggering but bring into question my right as a Jewish Israeli Australian to enjoy public events in safe space.

As it stands I will be switching to another station during the summer period as I would be worried that Ms Lattouff's

insensitive remarks and observations would be extremely upsetting to me.

Unless you believe in her assertions negating the Opera House incident and questioning first hand accounts of the occurrence, I would be urging you to liaise with the ABC management to withdraw this person from the show.

All of 'our' ABC's audiences should be afforded that right.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 12:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] vid N Anderson - Managing Director; Board
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf is not impartial]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

:Subject: Message sent via ministerial website - Antoinette Lattouf is not impartial - your copy of details [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Reply-To: minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au

Submitted on Mon, 2023-12-18 12:42

Subject
Antoinette Lattouf is not impartial

Message
Antoinette Lattouf is not impartial on the war in the Middle East and what are the consequences for her stating that “gas the Jews” at the Sydney Opera House was a lie.
We all heard it.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial, and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

Name
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

TAB-34

From: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 3:57 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Ben Latimer
Subject: RE: Antoinette Latouff Emails / Chair's Office

Hi Chris,

I've seen some of these – a lot of the complainants submitted complaints via the usual complaint form (so they're logged in the complaints database) in addition to writing directly to the Board and MD.

The reference to clause 4 of the Code of Practice (i.e. our impartiality standards) is seriously misguided... the Code applies to content we broadcast, not our hiring decisions. Some of the complainants seem to think we've breached our impartiality standards because of her Crikey story... but we aren't responsible for that story and it certainly isn't subject to our Code of Practice.

Anyway – happy to discuss with you and Ben. I'm around for the next hour or so, then unavailable until later this evening. Or if we can't find time today, happy to chat first thing tomorrow.

By the way – if you haven't already seen it, this Women's Agenda article (published earlier today) is worth a read: <https://womensagenda.com.au/latest/no-tactic-is-off-the-table-women-journalists-call-out-mainstream-media-for-targeted-accusations-and-half-truths/> [womensagenda.com.au]. Antoinette is quoted in it as saying:

"The intention of tabloid media campaigns which target individuals with a platform is to get us to shut up. To look away, to stop investigating and stop revealing harm. Essentially to stop doing our job. And if we don't try to shut up they discredit us in a bid for us to lose our jobs. No tactic is off the table from reporting blatant lies about us, mischaracterisations, and pressuring employers. I will continue to report and comment without fear or favour, especially when so many innocent lives are at stake and there's so much hate and division in Australia."

(The 'pressuring employers' reference makes me think that if the ABC was to take any action against her in response to complaints being made to the Board and MD etc., she'd definitely go public about it.)

Cheers
Simon

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 3:45 PM
To: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: Antoinette Latouff Emails / Chair's Office

Hi Simon,

You may have seen these letters of complaint. Many of them make claim that by engaging Ms Latouff, the ABC is in breach of clause 4 of the Code of Practice, calling into question the ABC's impartiality. I am not sure if this is correct, but clearly this is a hugely complex matter. Should the three of us get together this afternoon to discuss?

C

From: Lauren Stokes <Stokes.Lauren@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 3:28 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Cc: Vanessa Murray <Murray.Vanessa@abc.net.au>; Managing Director's Office <managingdirectorsoffice@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette Latouff Emails / Chair's Office

Dear Chris

The Chair/Board has received several email complaints regarding Antoinette Latouff. After a discussion between Ita and David we've been advised to forward these emails to you - please find them attached.

A brief acknowledgement email has been sent to each of the attached emails from the Chair's Office.

Thank you Chris

Kind regards
Lauren



Lauren Stokes
Executive Assistant to the Chair


E: Stokes.Lauren@abc.net.au

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abc.net.au

TAB-35

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 4:01 PM
To: Simon Melkman
Cc: Ben Latimer
Subject: RE: Antoinette Latouff Emails / Chair's Office

Thanks Simon, could we try to speak as a three in the next 15 or so? I'll shoot a teams through and see how we go

From: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 3:57 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
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Subject: RE: Antoinette Latouff Emails / Chair's Office

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The reference to clause 4 of the Code of Practice (i.e. our impartiality standards) is seriously misguided... the Code applies to content we broadcast, not our hiring decisions. Some of the complainants seem to think we've breached our impartiality standards because of her Crikey story... but we aren't responsible for that story and it certainly isn't subject to our Code of Practice.

Anyway – happy to discuss with you and Ben. I'm around for the next hour or so, then unavailable until later this evening. Or if we can't find time today, happy to chat first thing tomorrow.

By the way – if you haven't already seen it, this Women's Agenda article (published earlier today) is worth a read: <https://womensagenda.com.au/latest/no-tactic-is-off-the-table-women-journalists-call-out-mainstream-media-for-targeted-accusations-and-half-truths/> [womensagenda.com.au]. Antoinette is quoted in it as saying:

“The intention of tabloid media campaigns which target individuals with a platform is to get us to shut up. To look away, to stop investigating and stop revealing harm. Essentially to stop doing our job. And if we don't try to shut up they discredit us in a bid for us to lose our jobs. No tactic is off the table from reporting blatant lies about us, mischaracterisations, and pressuring employers. I will continue to report and comment without fear or favour, especially when so many innocent lives are at stake and there's so much hate and division in Australia.”

(The 'pressuring employers' reference makes me think that if the ABC was to take any action against her in response to complaints being made to the Board and MD etc., she'd definitely go public about it.)

Cheers
Simon

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
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Thank you Chris

Kind regards
Lauren



Lauren Stokes
Executive Assistant to the Chair
[REDACTED]
E: Stokes.Lauren@abc.net.au

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TAB-36

From: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 4:49 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor; Ben Latimer
Subject: RE: Antoinette Latouff Emails / Chair's Office

Here's what I'd suggest as a simple proforma response that should suffice for most complainants:

Dear ...

Thank you for your email to the [Managing Director / ABC Board], which has been referred to me for response.

I understand you are concerned about the appointment of Antoinette Lattouf as a presenter on ABC Sydney.

Antoinette is an excellent broadcaster who we have engaged as a fill-in presenter for the Mornings program for this week only. She will finish up, as planned, on Friday. *[Additional line for complainants who incorrectly assert that we've hired her to report on the war: She is not reporting on the Israel-Gaza war.]*

We are aware of Antoinette's recent reporting for Crikey. The ABC had no involvement in this work.

[Additional line to include in responses that claim we've breached clause 4 of our Code of Practice: We do not believe any of Antoinette's broadcasts this week have contravened our Code of Practice. However, if you have any specific concerns about segments you've heard on the program, you are welcome to outline them by return email and we would be happy to consider them.]

I would like to assure you that we take these matters very seriously and we appreciate you bringing your concerns to the ABC's attention.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 4:01 PM
To: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Subject: RE: Antoinette Latouff Emails / Chair's Office

Thanks Simon, could we try to speak as a three in the next 15 or so? I'll shoot a teams through and see how we go

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(The 'pressuring employers' reference makes me think that if the ABC was to take any action against her in response to complaints being made to the Board and MD etc., she'd definitely go public about it.)

Cheers
Simon

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Subject: Antoinette Latouff Emails / Chair's Office

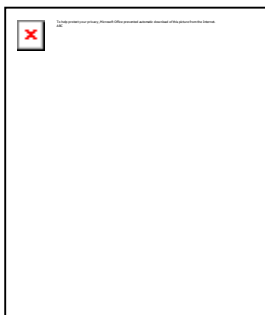
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Thank you Chris

Kind regards
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[\[abc.net.au\]](http://abc.net.au)

TAB-37

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 4:50 PM
To: Simon Melkman; Ben Latimer
Subject: RE: Antoinette Latouff Emails / Chair's Office

Thanks Simon,

Ben, I reckon we get Steve/Mark to write these as and when. I will confirm with MDO as to how and who wants to respond.

Cheers

C

From: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 4:49 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Subject: RE: Antoinette Latouff Emails / Chair's Office

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Thank you Chris

Kind regards
Lauren



[\[abc.net.au\]](http://abc.net.au)

Lauren Stokes
Executive Assistant to the Chair


E: Stokes.Lauren@abc.net.au

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TAB-38

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 6:19 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director
Cc: Managing Director's Office; Simon Melkman
Subject: Letter of response AT

D,

As mentioned, Simon has drafted a short response for any respondents regarding the complaints about Antoinette Lattouf.

Dear ...

Thank you for your email to the Chair/ABC Board], which has been referred to me for response.

I understand you are concerned about the appointment of Antoinette Lattouf as a presenter on ABC Sydney.

Antoinette is an excellent broadcaster who we have engaged as a short term fill-in presenter for the Mornings program for this week only. She has conclude her work, as planned, today. *[Additional line for complainants who incorrectly assert that we've hired her to report on the war: She is not reporting on the Israel-Gaza war.]*

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I would like to assure you that we take these matters very seriously and we appreciate you bringing your concerns to the ABC's attention.

Yours sincerely,



[\[abc.net.au\]](http://abc.net.au)

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer



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TAB-39

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 9:07 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

Just FYI - I'll talk to Ita tomorrow

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:49 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

Has Antoinette been replaced. I am over getting emails about her.
Regards
Ita

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

[REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:47 pm
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: Ms. Lattouf

Dear ABC Board,

I understand that Antoinette Lattouf is hosting the morning ABC Sydney show. Ms Lattouf has expressed strong personal opinions on the Hamas-Israel war as well as issues affecting Australian Jews. For example, she has expressed doubt that "gas the Jews" was chanting at the Sydney Opera House at all!

What actions has ABC management taken to ensure that during this period of extreme tension around a war Ms Lattouf has expressed strong partisan views about, the morning show maintains the appropriate standards around bias, objectivity and neutrality?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TAB-40

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 9:08 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

Noted. If we need to discuss, call me at anytime

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:07:08 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

Just FYI - I'll talk to Ita tomorrow

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:49 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

Has Antoinette been replaced. I am over getting emails about her.
Regards
Ita

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

[REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:47 pm
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: Ms. Lattouf

Dear ABC Board,

I understand that Antoinette Lattouf is hosting the morning ABC Sydney show. Ms Lattouf has expressed strong personal opinions on the Hamas-Israel war as well as issues affecting Australian Jews. For example, she has expressed doubt that "gas the Jews" was chanting at the Sydney Opera House at all!

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TAB-41

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 9:27 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

FYI

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:26 pm
To: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

Dear Ita,

Antoinette will finish up on Friday. It's a managed exit given the situation. I can explain more tomorrow.

I plan to respond to all those that have emailed on Friday afternoon.

Regards,

David

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:49 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

Has Antoinette been replaced. I am over getting emails about her.

Regards

Ita

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:47 pm
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: Ms. Lattouf

Dear ABC Board,

I understand that Antoinette Lattouf is hosting the morning ABC Sydney show. Ms Lattouf has expressed strong personal opinions on the Hamas-Israel war as well as issues affecting Australian Jews. For example, she has expressed doubt that "gas the Jews" was chanting at the Sydney Opera House at all!

What actions has ABC management taken to ensure that during this period of extreme tension around a war Ms Lattouf has expressed strong partisan views about, the morning show maintains the appropriate standards around bias, objectivity and neutrality?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TAB-42

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 9:29 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

Thank you

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:27:29 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

FYI

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:26 pm
To: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

Dear Ita,

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I plan to respond to all those that have emailed on Friday afternoon.

Regards,

David

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:49 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

Has Antoinette been replaced. I am over getting emails about her.

Regards

Ita

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:47 pm
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: Ms. Lattouf

Dear ABC Board,

I understand that Antoinette Lattouf is hosting the morning ABC Sydney show. Ms Lattouf has expressed strong personal opinions on the Hamas-Israel war as well as issues affecting Australian Jews. For example, she has expressed doubt that "gas the Jews" was chanting at the Sydney Opera House at all!

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TAB-43

From: Managing Director's Office <managingdirectorsoffice@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 9:34 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Office of the Chief Content Officer
Subject: Correspondence re: ABC Sydney

Hello Chris,

David has asked me to forward the correspondence about Antoinette Lattouf on to you.

There are currently 45 emails. Would you prefer that I email to you in one bulk lot or save to a SharePoint folder?

Let me know what is best / easiest.

Thanks,
Emma



[\[abc.net.au\]](http://abc.net.au)

Emma Burnett
Executive Assistant
Managing Director's Office
E: burnett.emma@abc.net.au

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

TAB-44

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 9:36 PM
To: Managing Director's Office
Cc: Office of the Chief Content Officer
Subject: Re: Correspondence re: ABC Sydney

We have a lot of them, but happy for you to send them to Ben, Steve Ahern and I as an email. I understand David is keen to respond on Friday to any correspondence.

Thanks Emma
C

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: Managing Director's Office <managingdirectorsoffice@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:34:28 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Cc: Office of the Chief Content Officer <OfficeChiefContent@abc.net.au>
Subject: Correspondence re: ABC Sydney

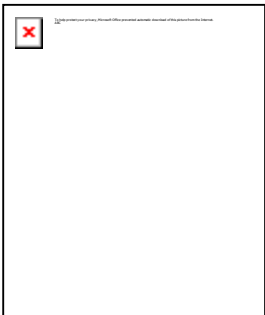
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David has asked me to forward the correspondence about Antoinette Lattouf on to you.

There are currently 45 emails. Would you prefer that I email to you in one bulk lot or save to a SharePoint folder?

Let me know what is best / easiest.

Thanks,
Emma



Emma Burnett
Executive Assistant
Managing Director's Office
E: burnett.emma@abc.net.au

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

[\[abc.net.au\]](http://abc.net.au)

TAB-45

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 10:10 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

FYI

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:59 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

I have a whole clutch more of complaints . Why can't she come down with flu? Or Covid. Or a stomach upset? We owe her nothing, we are copping criticism because she wasn't honest when she was appointed.

Managed exit. Really.

I don't like emailing you late but I am wrapping present.

We should be in damage control not managed exits David.

Ita

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:26:54 PM
To: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

Dear Ita,

Antoinette will finish up on Friday. It's a managed exit given the situation. I can explain more tomorrow.

I plan to respond to all those that have emailed on Friday afternoon.

Regards,

David

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:49 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

Has Antoinette been replaced. I am over getting emails about her.

Regards

Ita

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:47 pm

To: Board <board@abc.net.au>

Subject: FW: Ms. Lattouf

Dear ABC Board,

I understand that Antoinette Lattouf is hosting the morning ABC Sydney show. Ms Lattouf has expressed strong personal opinions on the Hamas-Israel war as well as issues affecting Australian Jews. For example, she has expressed doubt that "gas the Jews" was chanting at the Sydney Opera House at all!

What actions has ABC management taken to ensure that during this period of extreme tension around a war Ms Lattouf has expressed strong partisan views about, the morning show maintains the appropriate standards around bias, objectivity and neutrality?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TAB-46

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 10:12 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

The blow back will be phenomenal. I recommend we hold until Friday. No comment on the war, it's not related, no beach of our own editorial protocols or the act. It is not perfect, but it's the right course of action at this point.
C

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 10:09:47 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

FYI

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:59 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

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Managed exit. Really.
I don't like emailing you late but I am wrapping present.
We should be in damage control not managed exits David.
Ita

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:26:54 PM
To: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

Dear Ita,

Antoinette will finish up on Friday. It's a managed exit given the situation. I can explain more tomorrow.

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Regards,

David

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:49 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

Has Antoinette been replaced. I am over getting emails about her.
Regards
Ita

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

[Redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:47 pm
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: Ms. Lattouf

Dear ABC Board,

I understand that Antoinette Lattouf is hosting the morning ABC Sydney show. Ms Lattouf has expressed strong personal opinions on the Hamas-Israel war as well as issues affecting Australian Jews. For example, she has expressed doubt that “gas the Jews” was chanting at the Sydney Opera House at all!

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

TAB-47

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 10:42 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

I know that - hold the position, just sharing the pain

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From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 10:11:55 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

The blow back will be phenomenal. I recommend we hold until Friday. No comment on the war, it's not related, no beach of our own editorial protocols or the act. It is not perfect, but it's the right course of action at this point.
C

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 10:09:47 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

FYI

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:59 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

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Managed exit. Really.
I don't like emailing you late but I am wrapping present.
We should be in damage control not managed exits David.
Ita

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:26:54 PM
To: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

Dear Ita,

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I plan to respond to all those that have emailed on Friday afternoon.

Regards,

David

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:49 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

Has Antoinette been replaced. I am over getting emails about her.
Regards
Ita

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

[REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:47 pm
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: Ms. Lattouf

Dear ABC Board,

I understand that Antoinette Lattouf is hosting the morning ABC Sydney show. Ms Lattouf has expressed strong personal opinions on the Hamas-Israel war as well as issues affecting Australian Jews. For example, she has expressed doubt that “gas the Jews” was chanting at the Sydney Opera House at all!

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TAB-48

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 10:45 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

Sorry boss.

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 10:41:37 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

I know that - hold the position, just sharing the pain

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 10:11:55 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

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Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 10:09:47 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

FYI

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:59 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

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Managed exit. Really.

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Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:26:54 PM
To: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

Dear Ita,

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Regards,

David

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Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:49 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

Has Antoinette been replaced. I am over getting emails about her.
Regards
Ita

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[REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:47 pm
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: Ms. Lattouf

Dear ABC Board,

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What actions has ABC management taken to ensure that during this period of extreme tension around a war Ms Lattouf has expressed strong partisan views about, the morning show maintains the appropriate standards around bias, objectivity and neutrality?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TAB-49

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:07 AM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Subject: FW: Ms. Lattouf

Chris,

FYI below sent to Ita just now. I will be writing to you later this week regarding the consequences of all of this. There are two elements.

Firstly, I will be alleging serious misconduct by Steve Ahern, given your first response to me this week indicating he was editorially responsible and the delegate for choosing Antionette Lattouf as a presenter this week.

Secondly, I will be asking you to provide assurance that your team have steps have been taken to ensure that a situation like this never arises again.

I will write to you regarding that on Friday once Ms Lattouf's engagement has ceased.

Regards,

David

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Date: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 at 10:57 am
To: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

Dear Ita,

We are absolutely in damage control.

Local Radio management, specifically Steve Ahern, has put us in an unacceptable position. Mr Ahern made a negligent, error of judgement by employing Ms Lattouf without assessing her prior media and social media activity. I am taking action through Chris Oliver-Taylor alleging serious misconduct resulting in reputational damage to the ABC as a result of his actions.

We have weighed up the consequences of prematurely pulling Antoinette Lattouf off air, versus managing this until Friday as per her contract. We have concluded that the best possible outcome from here is to manage this such that Ms Lattouf does not editorial engage in the Middle East conflict while on air for the remainder of her contract.

This protects the ABC (and out staff) from the consequence of removing her, without her having breached any of our standards this week, when her position on the matter was known by Mr Ahern when Ms Lattouf was engaged. If we do remove her, there will be claims of doing so without cause given her position on the Middle East was widely known prior to her engagement, we have caved to pro-Israeli lobbying, and she hasn't actually breached impartiality this week. Again, we have been placed in an untenable position.

We have directed Ms Lattouf and the produces that the topic of the Middle East conflict is off limits, there is a lengthy off-air delay in place, and we will use the dump button if that direction is disobeyed. We have also

instructed producers not to allow callers through who wish to discuss that topic. To date, that direction has been followed.

There is without doubt already damage caused by her engagement. I expect the WhatsApp group email campaign where we are receiving emails regarding her 'appointment' to continue until we reveal on Friday that Ms Lattouf will not be returning next week.

In addition, we have a protest today outside of our Melbourne offices, from pro-Palestinian protesters, against the ABC. Staff are using separate entrance / exits and security is on site.

I will see you soon to discuss any further queries you may have.

Regards,

David

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Date: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 9:59 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

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Ita

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From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:26:54 PM
To: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

Dear Ita,

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Regards,

David

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:49 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

Has Antoinette been replaced. I am over getting emails about her.

Regards

Ita

[REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:47 pm
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: Ms. Lattouf

Dear ABC Board,

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TAB-50

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:14 AM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

I understand David. Again, I apologise that we have put you in this position. It is completely unacceptable.
Chris

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:06:48 AM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: Ms. Lattouf

Chris,

FYI below sent to Ita just now. I will be writing to you later this week regarding the consequences of all of this. There are two elements.

Firstly, I will be alleging serious misconduct by Steve Ahern, given your first response to me this week indicating he was editorially responsible and the delegate for choosing Antionette Lattouf as a presenter this week.

Secondly, I will be asking you to provide assurance that your team have steps have been taken to ensure that a situation like this never arises again.

I will write to you regarding that on Friday once Ms Lattouf's engagement has ceased.

Regards,

David

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Date: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 at 10:57 am
To: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

Dear Ita,

We are absolutely in damage control.

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This protects the ABC (and our staff) from the consequence of removing her, without her having breached any of our standards this week, when her position on the matter was known by Mr Ahern when Ms Lattouf was engaged. If we do remove her, there will be claims of doing so without cause given her position on the Middle East was widely known prior to her engagement, we have caved to pro-Israeli lobbying, and she hasn't actually breached impartiality this week. Again, we have been placed in an untenable position.

We have directed Ms Lattouf and the producers that the topic of the Middle East conflict is off limits, there is a lengthy off-air delay in place, and we will use the dump button if that direction is disobeyed. We have also instructed producers not to allow callers through who wish to discuss that topic. To date, that direction has been followed.

There is without doubt already damage caused by her engagement. I expect the WhatsApp group email campaign where we are receiving emails regarding her 'appointment' to continue until we reveal on Friday that Ms Lattouf will not be returning next week.

In addition, we have a protest today outside of our Melbourne offices, from pro-Palestinian protesters, against the ABC. Staff are using separate entrance / exits and security is on site.

I will see you soon to discuss any further queries you may have.

Regards,

David

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Date: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 9:59 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

I have a whole clutch more of complaints . Why can't she come down with flu? Or Covid. Or a stomach upset? We owe her nothing, we are copping criticism because she wasn't honest when she was appointed.
Managed exit. Really.
I don't like emailing you late but I am wrapping present.
We should be in damage control not managed exits David.
Ita

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:26:54 PM
To: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: Ms. Lattouf

Dear Ita,

Antoinette will finish up on Friday. It's a managed exit given the situation. I can explain more tomorrow.

I plan to respond to all those that have emailed on Friday afternoon.

Regards,

David

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:49 pm
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Lattouf

Has Antoinette been replaced. I am over getting emails about her.
Regards
Ita

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[REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:47 pm
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: Ms. Lattouf

Dear ABC Board,

I understand that Antoinette Lattouf is hosting the morning ABC Sydney show. Ms Lattouf has expressed strong personal opinions on the Hamas-Israel war as well as issues affecting Australian Jews. For example, she has expressed doubt that “gas the Jews” was chanting at the Sydney Opera House at all!

What actions has ABC management taken to ensure that during this period of extreme tension around a war Ms Lattouf has expressed strong partisan views about, the morning show maintains the appropriate standards around bias, objectivity and neutrality?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TAB-51

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:13 AM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Subject: More complaints Antoinette 702
Attachments: RE Antoinette Lattouf; RE Dangerous journalism ; RE The ABC becoming an accomplice to anti-Semitism; RE Antoinette Lattouf's breach of Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice; RE Antoinette Lattouf; RE ABC From a lifelong Labor supporter and active ALP Member; RE Abc and Antoinette Lattouf ; RE Antoinette Lattouf; RE Antoinette Lattouf; RE Antoinette Lattouf on ABC Sydney mornings; tom Joyner on ABC 7pm news; RE David, Michelle, and the ABC board,; RE Lack of impartiality at The ABC

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:11 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Antoinette Lattouf

[REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.

I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.

Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 7:26 AM
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

Cc'd for your consideration.

Dear Minister Rowland,

Ms Lattouf is guilty of spreading antisemitic lies, and has even posted that the Israeli army rapes women as standard practice. Not only is this blatantly untrue, but she has used these lies to justify the rape and torture of Israeli women, men, and girls.

Clause 4 of the ABC's code of practice is that that their employees must be impartial, something Ms Lattouf is clearly not. She also denies that protesters were screaming 'Gas the jews' at the Opera House, when evidence has clearly shown that such hate speech did indeed occur.

I implore you and the ABC to not employ this vile, hateful woman. She is not impartial by any stretch and does not represent the values and intelligent judgement one would hope the ABC would uphold for a multicultural society and all of its communities from which its viewers hail from.

[REDACTED]

Sent on the go with Vodafone

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:10 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Dangerous journalism

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.

I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.

Sincerely

Ita Buttrose

Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 8:31 AM
Subject: Dangerous journalism

Dear David Anderson and the ABC Board,

The ABC's failure to report with impartiality in the Israel-Hamas conflict has been very disappointing and does in fact breach Clause 4 of the ABC Code of Practice to be impartial. The news reader Antoinette Latouf has been particularly guilty of breaching this clause as well as the general understanding that journalism should be unbiased and that journalists and reporters have a responsibility to the public to give impartial and truthful news.

How dare Ms Latouf deny that protesters outside the Opera House were chanting anti semitic and hateful slogans and calling for the violent extermination of Jews by gas? How can she be allowed to assert that these were lies and manipulations by Jewish people? The videos showed extremely clear footage with perfectly clear audio of "gas the Jews, f*** the Jews" along with other hateful and violent declarations to the quite frightening lighting of flares. So completely un-Australian, so deliberately violent and insightful.

The terror and trauma Jews all over the world felt when this footage went viral was very real. How embarrassing that in Sydney on the very prestigious ABC, this was denied. How shameful a rebuke to Jewish people all over the world and how shameful for Australia to be seen as a country that turns a blind eye to such violence and racism.

A reminder that this disgusting show of ignorant racism occurred less than 3 days after the gruesome and abominable attack of Israel by the terrorist group Hamas where hundreds of babies, children and grandmothers were burned alive, decapitated, raped, tortured and murdered, and others were kidnapped, including a 10 month old baby and a 4 year old! May I remind you that this vile rally occurred before Israel had even retaliated and was thus a show of applause and solidarity with the terrorists who committed these atrocious crimes on innocent victims in Israel just a couple of days before! Nothing even to do with the conflict which occurred a week later in response. How disrespectful of the ABC to allow Antoinette Latouf to deny that these hateful slogans were spoken?

Unbelievable that violent events are allowed to be denied almost simultaneously to when they occur, and despite advances in technology and photography which make it undeniable that they did occur?!

It is disappointing that there has not been an apology and quite shocking that Ms Latouf can just carry on as if nothing occurred. She should in fact be sacked for breaching the clause, for biased and racist journalism and for lying to the Australian public and making us fools in front of the international community. Latouf's continued place as a reporter on the ABC gives her opportunity to use her role to further her antisemitic and anti women agenda on social media. She justifies the violence and rape of women on 7 October by the deflection that rape is a tool of war and also by her back-less and unproven claim that Israel has in the past done this in Gaza. She thus glosses over and justifies violence against women. Extremely dangerous.

I do hope that you will be addressing this matter and taking strong and decisive measures to rid Australian broadcasting of such racism and hate and such biased and unprofessional journalists.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:10 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: The ABC becoming an accomplice to anti-Semitism

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.

I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.

Sincerely

Ita Buttrose

Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 8:41 AM
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: The ABC becoming an accomplice to anti-Semitism

To the board of ABC,

At a time when every Jewish Australian is terrified and sickened by the denial of Jewish suffering, there is no place for the vilely anti-Semitic Antionette Lattouf, who uses lies as her weapon, to be given a stage by ABC to insight Jew hatred.

Please treat our suffering with as much seriousness as you would for any other people.

Please do not send the message that Jews don't count.

Thank you for your concern.

I look forward to your response.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:10 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Antoinette Lattouf's breach of Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.

I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.

Sincerely

Ita Buttrose

Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 9:12 AM
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf's breach of Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing to ask what actions ABC management has taken to ensure that during this period of extreme tension around a war Ms Lattouf has expressed strong partisan views about, her show maintains the appropriate standards around bias, objectivity and neutrality?

Please let me know.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:09 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Antoinette Lattouf

Dear [REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.
I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.
Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 9:18 AM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>; Board <board@abc.net.au>; michelle.rowland.mp@aph.gov.au
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

Dear Ms Rowland, Mr Anderson and Members of ABC Board,

I arrived in Australia 15 years ago, and have become a loyal viewer of ABC's programs. I say this with pride, as this fact is a measure of my "Aussie-ness", my "absorption" into the Australian wider society.

As such, it was with total shock that I watched some videos and articles by Ms Lattouf about the War in Gaza. These were not only biased towards her own political and ideological agenda, but also offensive towards the Jewish community, which I belong to. Her words and face expressions were proof of her contempt and hate towards Australian Jews.

I am also shocked by the fact that she has been given a morning ABC Sydney Show. Can this be understood as a second slap in our Jewish faces?

If she indeed continues as the presenter of this show, what are the standards ABC will have her to abide to, in relation to bias, objectivity and neutrality? How will the ABC ensure her contempt and hate will not be spewed against Jews and Israel?

I urge you to take urgent action in this matter.

With Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:08 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ABC From a lifelong Labor supporter and active ALP Member

Dear [REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.
I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.
Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 9:18 AM
To: A.Albanese.MP@aph.gov.au; Michelle.Rowland.MP@aph.gov.au; Phillips, Fiona (MP) <fiona.phillips.mp@aph.gov.au>
Cc: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: ABC From a lifelong Labor supporter and active ALP Member

The ABC is our **national** broadcaster. It's owned by the people. Over the years it has done a phenomenal job in informing and educating us as a nation.

Politically it was the number one for current affairs. The previous government ruined it by appointing what I call Murdoch lackeys to the board who have allowed it to deteriorate to the depths it sunk to this week in axing THE DRUM.

As for the changes in ABC News I'll blame Justin Stevens for implementing the decision, the ABC Board for just sitting there and allowing this to happen But ultimately the public elected representatives, the current Albanese Government for allowing this direction in the ABC to continue.

In a democracy we need open and honest elections, separation of powers aka the judiciary and we need a free and fearless press.

We all know that the non government press have adopted the Murdoch business practice of fear and drama, aka disregard the facts we have to sell advertising. This is why a well funded ABC free from political interference.

It is time, Prime Minister, to restore the ABC to be free and fearless as it once was.

Programs like The Drum should be immediately restored.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:08 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Abc and Antoinette Lattouf

Dear Ms [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.

I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.

Sincerely

Ita Buttrose

Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 9:20 AM
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Abc and Antoinette Lattouf

>
> Dear Ms Buttrose and the members of the board of the ABC,
>
> I am writing because Antoinette has repeatedly shown herself to be an activist rather than a journalist.
>
> Recently she has crossed a line with an instagram post alleging that the Israeli army engages in rape as a weapon of war. This is a false and dangerous thing to say on a public platform and certainly should not have been placed on the internet by a journalist funded by taxpayers who is meant to be representing the national broadcaster.
>
> I have attached a screenshot of the comment for your records. This is in blatant breach of the abc's own code of conduct in particular clause 4 which is to be impartial. Nothing less than the public reprimanding and sacking of this "journalist" is acceptable in my opinion.
>
> I look forward to your prompt response on this issue.
>
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]



antoinette_lattouf



I believe Israeli women. As a feminist, I'm appalled by reports of sexual violence on Oct 7.

Sadly, there's almost never been a conflict where rape hasn't been used as a tool of war. This should horrify and galvanise the masses.

It is also dangerous and **disingenuous to discuss Hamas using rape as a tool of war without acknowledging that Israeli forces do too, and have done so, as long as there's been an Israel.**

@antoinette_lattouf



Liked by alizbee and others

antoinette_lattouf Believing women is an important step, stopping the slaughter of thousands more in their name is an essential one.

View all 91 comments



>
>
> Sent from my iPhone

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:07 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Antoinette Lattouf

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.

I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.

Sincerely

Ita Buttrose

Chair – ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 9:21 AM
To: Minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au
Cc: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>; Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

Dear Minister

I am writing to ask how someone as overtly biased against Israel ie Antoinette Lattouf is appropriate to be hosting the morning ABC Sydney show.

Antoinette is not at all impartial on the war in the Middle East.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this code.

In general, I am finding ABC reporting and the disapproving tone of some reporters, to be very pro Hamas and anti Israel. This is a shame as the world would be a better place without Hamas and it would be helpful if the ABC could acknowledge this.

Antoinette is nothing less than rabidly opposed to Israel and I know many people apart from myself who strongly agree that she should be removed from reporting on the war in Middle East.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:07 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Antoinette Lattouf

Dear [REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.
I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.
Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 9:23 AM
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

Dear ABC Board members,

I am appalled to see that Antoinette Lattouf is hosting the morning ABC Sydney show. Her recent article and social media post which cast doubt over the "Gas the Jews" chant, further incite hatred, and are nothing short of disgraceful. This content demonstrates her clear bias. Isn't her lack of impartiality a breach of clause 4 of the ABC Code of practice?

Bring back Sarah MacDonald.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:06 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Antoinette Lattouf on ABC Sydney mornings; tom Joyner on ABC 7pm news

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.

I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.

Sincerely

Ita Buttrose

Chair - ABC

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, 20 Dec 2023 at 09:16
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf on ABC Sydney mornings; tom Joyner on ABC 7pm news
To: <board@yourabc.net.au>

Dear ABC Board,

I am writing to express my grave concern that this individual is hosting ABC Sydney mornings, given her clearly biased, denialist views of what was said in Sydney within hours of the Hamas pogrom being committed in southern Israel. Specifically, she has denied that genocidal and antisemitic slogans were shouted by throngs of pro-palestinian Hamas apologists at the Opera House. Further, she has accused the Australian Jewish Alliance of doctoring and/or fabricating the recording of the event. This is an example of attempted historical revisionism (just 2 months after the events) when there are multiple, verified recordings available of these chants, specifically including the call for genocide to be committed against Jews. The sources of this evidence are explored and discussed on p2 of Monday's Daily Telegraph (18 December).

This single example is ample to demonstrate breaches of the ABC's code of conduct. Further, it creates - at the very least - such a distinct perception of bias (if not actual bias), that this person should be taken off air. If you allow her to remain on air, you are complicit in her statements.

It is no wonder that Australians - myself included - no longer have any faith at all in the 'journalists' of the ABC to present anything like well-rounded coverage of news. Rather, we know them to be self-centred, activist players in the news. This is a travesty.

I heard Tom Joyner reporting on the conflict last night describe Israel as 'vengeful'. This further reinforced the thinly-veiled bias that passes for news reporting on the ABC. He has no place reporting on the conflict. The decision to allow him to has clearly been proven wrong. It is impossible to understand how his vile remarks in relation to the death of babies on 7 October were anything but intentional.

I implore you to take steps to introduce change around the increasingly widespread and entirely inappropriate, blatant politicisation of the ABC.

Yours sincerely,



From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:05 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: David, Michelle, and the ABC board,

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.

I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.

Sincerely

Ita Buttrose

Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 9:57 AM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>; michelle.rowland.mp@aph.gov.au; Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: David, Michelle, and the ABC board,

I am extremely concerned that nothing has been done to rectify Antoinette Lattouf's wrongs after she continues to add fuel to the misinformation campaign against the Australian Jewish community.

She has denied the disgusting chants of 'gas the Jews' ever happened on the steps of our Sydney Opera House - an international embarrassment - writing a slander piece in Crikey.com.au, and despite the full video being released since then and indeed documenting this vile behaviour happened she has refused to apologise or release a correction. Her false article continues to be shared countless times on social media, used in the context of dismissing the shameful rise of antisemitism we are all experiencing - and arming anti-semites of old and new with perceived grounds to spew their divisive hatred.

What is being done?

Why does the ABC continue to allow her to be platformed?

A deeply concerned citizen,

[REDACTED]

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:04 AM
To: [REDACTED]; Board
Subject: RE: Lack of impartiality at The ABC

Dear [REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.
I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.
Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 10:31 AM
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Lack of impartiality at The ABC

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to bring to your attention a matter of deep concern regarding the lack of impartiality and adherence to the ABC code of practice by Ms. Latouff, the current host of the ABC Sydney Morning show.

Ms. Latouff's recent actions have raised serious questions about her impartiality, as outlined in Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice. I would like to highlight the following issues: Ms. Latouff co-authored an article titled "Viral footage showed protesters chanting 'Gas the Jews'. Nobody can verify it" (Crikey, Dec 13 2023), which also featured on her socials and has been widely shared. The article casts unreasonable doubt on the validity of antisemitic rhetoric, "Gas the Jews", "Fuck the Jews" witnessed at the Opera House on October 8. The intent behind the article was to provide a false and skewed narrative according to Ms. Latouff's personal views on the War and particularly Jewish people, contributing to the alarming rise in antisemitism, which has surged by over 700% since October 7. Ms. Latouff's endorsement of the MEAA Open Letter raises concerns about her impartiality in reporting on conflicts.

The role of an ABC host, who leads and adds commentary to news stories, demands a basic level of impartiality and adherence to the ABC codes. Ms. Latouff's actions, as outlined above, call into question her ability to meet these standards. As a taxpayer-funded public broadcasting company, the ABC has a vital responsibility to maintain the highest standards of journalism. The current situation, with Ms. Latouff continuing to host prime time TV, constitutes a clear breach of this obligation.

I urgently request a comprehensive explanation of the steps the ABC plans to take to rectify this situation and restore the credibility of its reporting. Australians deserve accurate, unbiased information, and it is crucial that swift and decisive action be taken to address this issue. I anticipate your prompt attention to this matter and a thorough investigation into the concerning conduct of Ms. Latouff.

At a time when journalism needs to be at its strongest, it is imperative that the ABC upholds its commitment to journalistic integrity.

Please may I ask that the board, genuinely investigates this issue of real concern and in the interim Ms Latauff be removed from any broadcasting.

Yours sincerely

TAB-52

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:15 AM
To: Ita Buttrose - Chair
Subject: Re: More complaints Antoinette 702

Thank you Ita, we are dealing with this issue at hand and apologise that you are receiving this correspondence. It is not acceptable.

Chris

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:12:53 AM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Subject: More complaints Antoinette 702

TAB-53

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:19 AM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Subject: More complaints 702 Antoinette
Attachments: RE Grave concern over anti-Israel and antisemitic bias on the abc; RE Message sent via ministerial website - Appointment of Antoinette Lattouf to morning ABC Sydney show - your copy of details [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]; RE Antoinette Lattouf hosting the morning ABC Sydney show; RE Ms Latouff; RE Antoinette Lattouf

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:16 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Grave concern over anti-Israel and antisemitic bias on the abc

Dear [REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.
I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.
Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:36 PM
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Grave concern over anti-Israel and antisemitic bias on the abc

Attention: The Board of the abc:

I know I am not the first person to write to you about this, but it is the first time I personally am writing to you.

I have always watched, read and listened to the abc with appreciation, for many years now. However, since 7th October in which Hamas launched a deadly and depraved attack on Israeli citizens and have continued their rein of terror and human rights violations (against Israel and against its own civilians) during the ensuing Israel/Hamas war, I have found myself unable to stomach the coverage of this war by the abc.

I have found it repeatedly guilty of terrible and deeply dangerous bias in favour of Palestinians and of Hamas (terrorist group), and at the same time guilty of demonising Israel, the only Jewish state, while fomenting antisemitism in our country.

This bias, and general as well as deliberate hostility towards Israel, has serious moral and practical implications, and is fanning the raging flames of antisemitism within our own country.

This has resulted in myself as a Jew, my family and my community feeling increasingly worried and frightened by the rage on our own streets at Israel and at Jews.

Very serious and unprofessional bias is being permitted, or even encouraged? by the abc - eg Tom Joyner, who I see is back reporting on the Middle East, and Antoinette Latouff, to name but a few. Dreadful antisemitic tropes are being repeated on the airwaves of the abc. Hitler too, used the media to propagate his heinous ideologies, and they were willing participants.

As Jews we know where this media bias can lead. In each generation antisemitism rises up against us in different forms. This time it is leftist demonisation. We recognise this Jew hatred deep within our collective psyche - we know it, as we have done in each generation.

Please, I beg you, step outside the awful bias bubble in which the abc is ensconced, and see it for what it is.

We need balanced and professional reporting now more than ever. You owe it to us as Australians.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:16 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Message sent via ministerial website - Appointment of Antoinette Lattouf to morning ABC Sydney show - your copy of details [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Dear [REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.
I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.
Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:54 PM
To: ministerinfrastructure.noreply@govcms.gov.au
Cc: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>; Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Message sent via ministerial website - Appointment of Antoinette Lattouf to morning ABC Sydney show - your copy of details [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

From: ministerinfrastructure.noreply@govcms.gov.au
Date: 19 December 2023 at 21:47:53 GMT+11
[REDACTED]
Subject: Message sent via ministerial website - Appointment of Antoinette Lattouf to morning ABC Sydney show - your copy of details [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Reply-To: minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au

Submitted on Tue, 2023-12-19 21:47

Subject
Appointment of Antoinette Lattouf to morning ABC Sydney show

Message

Dear Minister,
I am greatly concerned, that at a time of crisis in Israel and Gaza that the new appointment to the ABC morning radio, is not impartial.
Antoinette Lattouf is not impartial on the war in the Middle East and what are the consequences for her stating that "gas the Jews" at the Sydney Opera House was a lie.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Antoinette is in breach of this clause.

The timing of this appointment is inappropriate.
Thank you for your consideration.
I hope that the appointment is at least deferred

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:16 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Antoinette Lattouf hosting the morning ABC Sydney show

Dear [REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.
I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.
Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 10:22 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Cc: michelle.rowland.mp@aph.gov.au; Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf hosting the morning ABC Sydney show

Dear David, Michelle and ABC board,

It has come to my attention to that Antoinette Lattouf is to be hosting the morning ABC Sydney show. Ms Lattouf has expressed strong personal opinions on the Hamas-Israel war as well as issues affecting Australian Jews. For example, she has [expressed doubt that "gas the Jews" was chanted at the Sydney Opera House](#) at all.

Clause 4 of the [ABC code of practice](#) states that journalists are to be impartial. However, Ms Lattouf is anything but.

What actions have ABC management taken to ensure that during this period of extreme tension around a war Ms Lattouf has expressed strong partisan views about, her show maintains the appropriate standards around bias, objectivity and neutrality?

I look forward to hearing your responses

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:15 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Ms Latouff

Dear [REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.
I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.
Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 10:47 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Cc: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Ms Latouff

Dear Mr Anderson

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of concern regarding Ms.Latouff hosting the ABC morning radio show.

It has come to my attention that Ms. Latouff's recent actions have raised serious questions about her impartiality, as outlined in Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice. I would like to highlight the following issues:

Ms. Latouff co-authored an article titled "Viral footage showed protesters chanting 'Gas the Jews'. Nobody can verify it" (Crikey, Dec 13 2023), which also featured on her socials and has been widely shared. The article casts unreasonable doubt on the validity of antisemitic rhetoric, "Gas the Jews", "Fuck the Jews" witnessed at the Opera House on October 8. The intent behind the article was to provide a false and skewed narrative according to Ms. Latouff's personal views on the War and particularly Jewish people, contributing to the alarming rise in antisemitism, which has surged by over 700% since October 7.
Ms. Latouff's endorsement of the MEAA Open Letter raises concerns about her impartiality in reporting on conflicts.

The role of an ABC host, who leads and adds commentary to news stories, demands a basic level of impartiality and adherence to the ABC codes. Ms. Latouff's actions, as outlined above, call into question her ability to meet these standards.

As a taxpayer-funded public broadcasting company, the ABC has a vital responsibility to maintain the highest standards of journalism.

I urgently request a comprehensive explanation of the steps the ABC plans to take to rectify this situation and restore the credibility of its reporting. Australians deserve accurate, unbiased information, and it is crucial that swift and decisive action be taken to address this issue.

I anticipate your prompt attention to this matter and a thorough investigation into the concerning conduct of Ms. Latouff. At a time when journalism needs to be at its strongest, it is imperative that the ABC upholds its commitment to journalistic integrity.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:14 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Antoinette Lattouf

Dear [REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.
I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.
Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 6:53 AM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>; Board <board@abc.net.au>; Minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf
Importance: High

Dear ABC and Ms Rowland,

Further to my complaint yesterday, please see attached post that this same staff member posted on social media.

As a journalist, she has a responsibility not to spread disinformation and misinformation and anything short of terminating her position would not be sufficient. Considering the numerous citations by the UN against Israel, if there was any actual proof of this there would be at least a mention of this.

I expect a response regarding the action that is being taken against Ms Lattouf (as opposed to a generic email) by close of business today or I will look to engage Senior counsel to take this matter further.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IMPORTANT FRAUD ALERT – The Law Society of NSW has reported an increasing occurrence of fraudsters intercepting emails and inserting their bank account details in place of the intended account details. To mitigate this risk, you must not deposit or transfer funds using account details provided by us (or anyone else) via email only. If you receive such an email, phone our office and verify the account details first.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:40 PM
To: 'david.anderson@abc.net.au' <david.anderson@abc.net.au>; 'board@your.abc.net.au' <board@your.abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette Lattouf

Dear Mr Anderson and the ABC board,

I would like to understand how Ms Lattouf is the correspond for the ABC for reporting on the Middle East. She is not impartial and, as ABC is a public broadcasting company which is funded by Australian taxpayers.

Furthermore, she has incorrectly claimed that the Jewish community said “gas the Jews” was a lie and there have now been 4 statutory declarations by independent witnesses (some of whom are not part of the Jewish community) attesting to this.

Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice is to be impartial and employing Ms Lattouf to report on this, there is no impartiality. ABC is in breach of their obligations by allowing her to continue to report on the conflict.

Please advise how you intend to handle this matter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IMPORTANT FRAUD ALERT – The Law Society of NSW has reported an increasing occurrence of fraudsters intercepting emails and inserting their bank account details in place of the intended account details. To mitigate this risk, you must not deposit or transfer funds using account details provided by us (or anyone else) via email only. If you receive such an email, phone our office and verify the account details first.

TAB-54

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:24 AM
To: Ita Buttrose - Chair
Subject: Re: More complaints 702 Antoinette

Received Ita.
Thank you
Chris

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:19:25 AM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Subject: More complaints 702 Antoinette

TAB-55

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:24 AM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Subject: The complaints keep coming Antoinette 702
Attachments: RE Antoinette Lattoufreally; RE Ms. Lattouf; RE Antoinette Lattouff

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:21 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Antoinette Lattoufreally?

Dear [REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.
I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.
Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:21 PM
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette Lattoufreally?

I emailing you to complain that you have chosen Antoinette Lattouf to host the Sydney ABC morning show.

Ms Lattouf is blatantly antisemitic (denying that protestors were shouting "gas the Jews" in front of the Opera house - despite overwhelming evidence). She is divisive and is encouraging hate within our multicultural Australian society.

She is definitely not impartial and employing her is a breach of clause 4 of the ABC code of practise.

I implore you to reconsider this erroneous decision.

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:21 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Ms. Lattouf

[REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.
I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.
Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:48 PM
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: Ms. Lattouf
Importance: High

Dear ABC Board,

I understand that Antoinette Lattouf is hosting the morning ABC Sydney show. Ms Lattouf has expressed strong personal opinions on the Hamas-Israel war as well as issues affecting Australian Jews. For example, she has expressed doubt that "gas the Jews" was chanting at the Sydney Opera House at all!

What actions has ABC management taken to ensure that during this period of extreme tension around a war Ms Lattouf has expressed strong partisan views about, the morning show maintains the appropriate standards around bias, objectivity and neutrality?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:20 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Antoinette Lattouff

Dear [REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.
I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.
Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:09 PM
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Antoinette Lattouff

Dear Members of the ABC Board

I note with some alarm that Antoinette Latouff has been appointed to host ABC Sydney Radio and am wondering what steps the Board is taking to ensure that she meets the ABC's code of practice, particularly at this challenging time for the media in reporting on events in the Middle East and the associated responses by local communities?

Ms Latouff's Instagram and X (Twitter) accounts suggest that she is anything but accurate and impartial and by appointing her it seems to me that the ABC is legitimising her vigilante style of journalism.

While I accept that the views expressed on the radio and on TV will not always accord with mine, I would like to feel that the ABC is independent and impartial, as per its Charter, and that efforts will be made to retain my trust.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

TAB-56

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:25 AM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Subject: RE: More complaints Antoinette 702

It goes with the job Chris.....I think we will keep getting these complaints until Antoinette leaves.
Ita

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:15 AM
To: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: More complaints Antoinette 702

Thank you Ita, we are dealing with this issue at hand and apologise that you are receiving this correspondence. It is not acceptable.

Chris

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:12:53 AM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Subject: More complaints Antoinette 702

TAB-57

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:26 AM
To: Ita Buttrose - Chair
Subject: RE: More complaints Antoinette 702

I agree. We have been left in an untenable position as to how to resolve and are working to find the best solution to this predicament. Again I apologise to you, David and the Board for putting you in this position.
Chris

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:25 AM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Subject: RE: More complaints Antoinette 702

It goes with the job Chris.....I think we will keep getting these complaints until Antoinette leaves.
Ita

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:15 AM
To: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: More complaints Antoinette 702

Thank you Ita, we are dealing with this issue at hand and apologise that you are receiving this correspondence. It is not acceptable.
Chris

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:12:53 AM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Subject: More complaints Antoinette 702

TAB-58

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:27 AM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Subject: FW: Lack of impartiality at The ABC

I think I didn't include [REDACTED] in the earlier emails
Chris.
Ita

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:04 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Lack of impartiality at The ABC

Dear [REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.
I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief
Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.
Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 10:31 AM
To: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Lack of impartiality at The ABC

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to bring to your attention a matter of deep concern regarding the lack of impartiality and adherence to the ABC code of practice by Ms. Latouff, the current host of the ABC Sydney Morning show.

Ms. Latouff's recent actions have raised serious questions about her impartiality, as outlined in Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice. I would like to highlight the following issues: Ms. Latouff co-authored an article titled "Viral footage showed protesters chanting 'Gas the Jews'. Nobody can verify it" (Crikey, Dec 13 2023), which also featured on her socials and has been widely shared. The article casts unreasonable doubt on the validity of antisemitic rhetoric, "Gas the Jews", "Fuck the Jews" witnessed at the Opera House on October 8. The intent behind the article was to provide a false and skewed narrative according to Ms. Latouff's personal views on the War and particularly Jewish people, contributing to the alarming rise in antisemitism, which has surged by over 700% since October 7. Ms. Latouff's endorsement of the MEAA Open Letter raises concerns about her impartiality in reporting on conflicts.

The role of an ABC host, who leads and adds commentary to news stories, demands a basic level of impartiality and adherence to the ABC codes. Ms. Latouff's actions, as outlined above, call into question her ability to meet these standards. As a taxpayer-funded public broadcasting company, the ABC has a vital responsibility to maintain the highest standards of journalism. The current situation, with Ms. Latouff continuing to host prime time TV, constitutes a clear breach of this obligation.

I urgently request a comprehensive explanation of the steps the ABC plans to take to rectify this situation and restore the credibility of its reporting. Australians deserve accurate, unbiased information, and it is

crucial that swift and decisive action be taken to address this issue. I anticipate your prompt attention to this matter and a thorough investigation into the concerning conduct of Ms. Latouff.

At a time when journalism needs to be at its strongest, it is imperative that the ABC upholds its commitment to journalistic integrity.

Please may I ask that the board, genuinely investigates this issue of real concern and in the interim Ms Latauff be removed from any broadcasting.

Yours sincerely

TAB-59

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:32 AM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Subject: This is the lot for now Chris...Ita
Attachments: RE Ms Latouff; RE Appointment of Antoinette Lattouff to host ABC Morning Show

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:31 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Ms Latouff

Dear [REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.
I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.
Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 5:31 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Cc: Board <board@abc.net.au>
Subject: Ms Latouff

Mr.Anderson

I am writing in regard to the impartiality and adherence to the ABC code of practice by Ms. Latouff, the current host of the ABC Sydney Morning show.

Ms. Latouff's recent actions have raised serious questions about her impartiality outlined in Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice.

Ms. Latouff as most already know co-authored an article titled "Viral footage showed protesters yelling Gas the Jews" which also featured on her socials and has been widely shared.

The article casts unreasonable doubt on the validity of antisemitic rhetoric, "Gas the Jews", "Fuck the Jews" witnessed at the Opera House on October 8. The intent behind the article was to provide a false and skewed narrative according to Ms. Latouff's personal views on the War and particularly Jewish people, contributing to the alarming rise in antisemitism, which has surged by over 700% since October 7.

Our Australian Jewish community behave in a dignified and peaceful manner and do not go around yelling and screaming to get attention, yet our kids can't wear their uniforms to school or are not comfortable to attend university because of the rise in antisemitism. This happens on a daily basis!

As a leader and a forefront spokesperson

The role of an ABC host, who leads requires a basic level of impartiality and adherence to the ABC codes. Ms. Latouff's actions, as outlined above, call into question her ability to meet these standards.

As a taxpayer-funded public broadcasting company, the ABC has a responsibility to maintain the highest standards of journalism. The current situation, with Ms. Latouff continuing to host prime time TV, constitutes a clear breach of this obligation.

Australians deserve accurate, unbiased information, and it is crucial that swift and decisive action be taken to address this issue.

ABC journalism needs to be at its strongest, it is imperative that the ABC upholds its commitment to journalistic integrity.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

From: Ita Buttrose - Chair <Buttrose.Ita@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:28 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Appointment of Antoinette Lattouff to host ABC Morning Show

Dear [REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. The contents have been noted.
I have forwarded your email on to Chris Oliver-Taylor, the ABC's Chief Content Officer, who is dealing with this matter.
Sincerely
Ita Buttrose
Chair - ABC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 6:04 PM
To: David N Anderson - Managing Director <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>; Board <board@abc.net.au>; Peter Tonagh <Tonagh.Peter@abc.net.au>
Subject: Appointment of Antoinette Lattouff to host ABC Morning Show

Dear Mr. Anderson and Board Members

I am writing to express deep concern regarding the impartiality and adherence to the ABC code of practice by Ms. Latouff, the current host of the ABC Sydney Morning show.

Many recent actions and social media posts by Ms. Latouff are black and white evidence of her lack of impartiality (I would go so far as to say her extremist views) in relation to the current Middle East conflict, as well as the ongoing issues of deep and proven anti-semitism within the Australian community, which is a requirement of Clause 4 of the ABC code of practice. I would like to highlight the following issues:

Ms. Latouff co-authored an article titled "Viral footage showed protesters chanting 'Gas the Jews'. Nobody can verify it" (Crikey, Dec 13 2023), which she also shared on her social media platforms and has been widely circulated. This article unfairly questions the validity of the antisemitic rhetoric, such as "Gas the Jews" and "Fuck the Jews," witnessed at the Opera House on October 8. The intent behind the article seems to be providing a false and biased narrative based on Ms. Latouff's personal views on the war and particularly Jewish people. Unfortunately, this contributes to the alarming surge of antisemitism, which has increased by over 700% since October 7. There is clear video evidence (which has aired on Sky News and has been widely circulated elsewhere, as well as eyewitness evidence (now attested to via statutory declarations, of these chants.

Ms Lattouff has posted disgusting and unsupported posts on her social media account, including one accusing the IDF of using rape as a tool of war and having done so for 70 years. A recent instagram post of hers cited the IDF as having used rape as a tool of war since Israel was created to argue that discussing Hamas' mass rapes on 7 October (which she acknowledges took place) out of context is dangerous. This is absolutely appalling, inferring that Hamas was somehow justified in committing those atrocities as some sort of "payback".

Ms. Latouff's endorsement of the MEAA Open Letter is further evidence of her lack of impartiality when reporting on conflicts.

The role of an ABC host, who leads and provides commentary on news stories, requires a fundamental level of impartiality and adherence to the ABC codes. Ms. Latouff's aforementioned actions raise doubts about her ability to meet these standards.

In addition, she is utilising her position as a public figure, gained by virtue of her role as an ABC journalist, to foment hatred and denialism amongst the broad Australian community who listen to the ABC and assume its journalists present a balanced view.

As a publicly-funded broadcasting company, the ABC has a crucial responsibility to uphold the highest standards of journalism. The current situation, with Ms. Latouff continuing to host prime time TV, clearly violates this obligation.

I urgently request a detailed explanation of the steps the ABC intends to take to address this situation and restore the credibility of its reporting. Australians deserve accurate and unbiased information, and it is essential that swift and decisive action is taken to tackle this matter.

I anticipate your prompt attention to this issue and a thorough investigation into the concerning conduct of Ms. Latouff. In a time when journalism needs to be strong, it is imperative that the ABC remains committed to upholding journalistic integrity.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

TAB-60

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:31 AM
To: Steve Ahern
Cc: Ben Latimer
Subject: 702 Guest Presenter

Steve,

The decision to place Antoinette Latouff on air as a guest presenter looks ill-informed.

Can we please find out the process of how she was selected, approached and approved to fill in for this week. It appears on face value that background checks were not completed to a sufficient degree, if they were at least two issues would have come to light.

1. Her position on the Gaza/Israel war, which at the very best means she comes with a perception of bias to Local Radio
2. She signed the recent petition, something that the ABC has clearly asked its staff not to do, yet we engaged someone who had, again compromising their impartiality

Can I also request every guest presenter line up across Christmas and seek assurances that the team have completed the right checks on all potential candidates to ensure they meet the highest standards of perceived and actual impartiality.

Thanks Steve

Chris



Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer



We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

[\[abc.net.au\]](http://abc.net.au)

TAB-61

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 11:33 AM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Cc: Ben Latimer
Subject: Re: 702 Guest Presenter

Chris.

I will come back to you with full details by the end of today.

Steve

Steve Ahern
Manager, ABC Radio Sydney


E ahern.steve@abc.net.au
W abc.net.au/sydney [abc.net.au]

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:30:59 AM
To: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Cc: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Subject: 702 Guest Presenter

Steve,

The decision to place Antoinette Latouff on air as a guest presenter looks ill-informed.

Can we please find out the process of how she was selected, approached and approved to fill in for this week. It appears on face value that background checks were not completed to a sufficient degree, if they were at least two issues would have come to light.

1. Her position on the Gaza/Israel war, which at the very best means she comes with a perception of bias to Local Radio
2. She signed the recent petition, something that the ABC has clearly asked its staff not to do, yet we engaged someone who had, again compromising their impartiality

Can I also request every guest presenter line up across Christmas and seek assurances that the team have completed the right checks on all potential candidates to ensure they meet the highest standards of perceived and actual impartiality.

Thanks Steve

Chris



[\[abc.net.au\]](http://abc.net.au)

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer



We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

TAB-62

From: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 12:19 PM
To: Simon Melkman; Chris Oliver-Taylor; Steve Ahern
Subject: 702 guest presenter

Steve,

I have just seen Insta story posts by Antoinette regarding Israel-Gaza posted 18-hours ago.

The clear instructions were to direct Antoinette not to post to socials for the rest of this week.

Simon, Chris, Steve – can you please review the Insta stories and then let's chat as soon as possible this afternoon?

Thanks,

Ben



[\[abc.net.au\]](http://abc.net.au)

Ben Latimer
Head of Audio Content

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

TAB-63

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 12:23 PM
To: Ben Latimer; Simon Melkman; Steve Ahern
Subject: Re: 702 guest presenter

As per chat Ben, please send screenshot. Then let's review asap

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 12:19:07 PM
To: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Subject: 702 guest presenter

Steve,

I have just seen Insta story posts by Antoinette regarding Israel-Gaza posted 18-hours ago.

The clear instructions were to direct Antoinette not to post to socials for the rest of this week.

Simon, Chris, Steve – can you please review the Insta stories and then let's chat as soon as possible this afternoon?

Thanks,

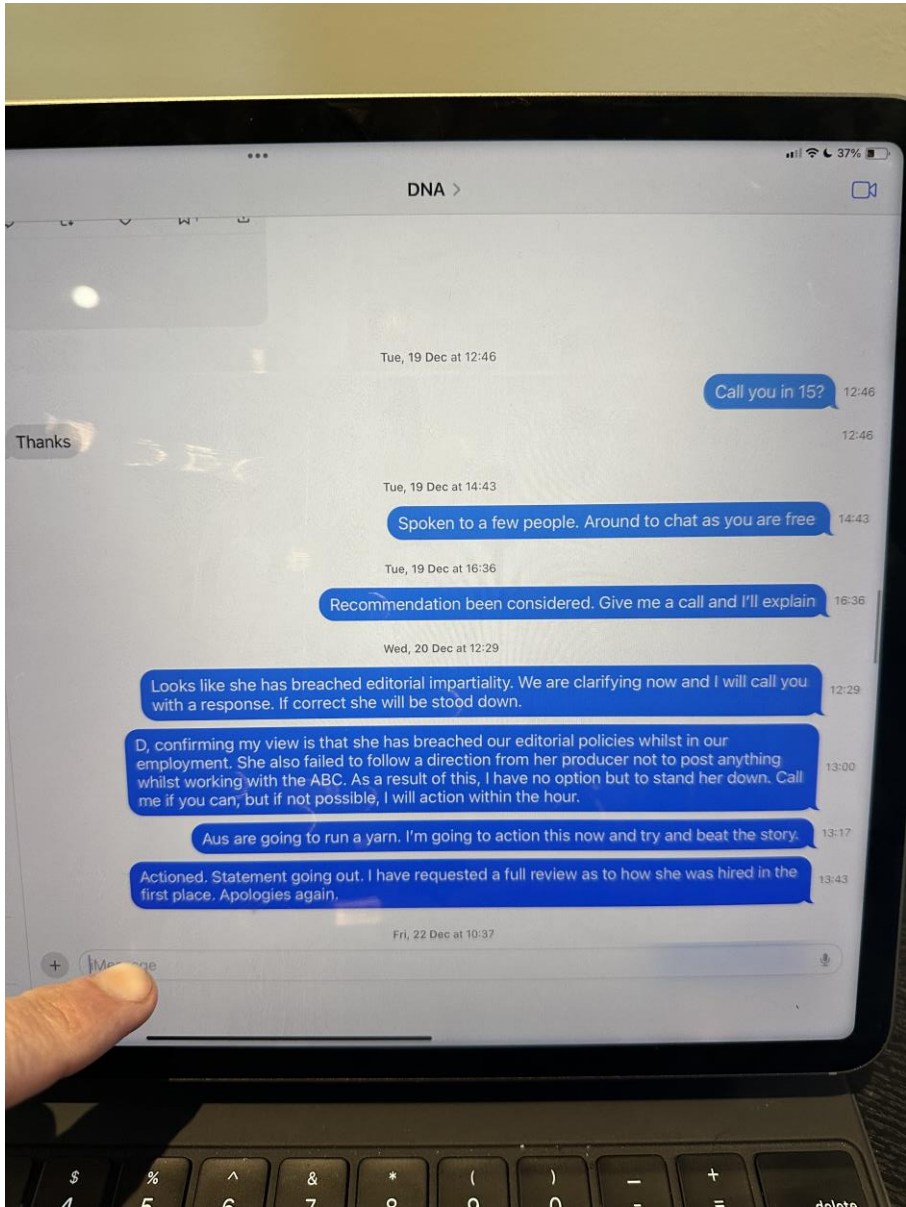
Ben



Ben Latimer
Head of Audio Content

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TAB-65

From: Nick Leys <Leys.Nick@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 12:42 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor; Ben Latimer
Cc: Laura Todd; Nikki Tugwell
Subject: Fwd: Questions from The Australian

Clearly complaints have been shared.

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From: Elsworth, Sophie <sophie.elsworth@news.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:24
To: Nick Leys <Leys.Nick@abc.net.au>; Sally Jackson <Jackson.Sally@abc.net.au>
Subject: Questions from The Australian

Hi Nick,

I have the following questions please regarding Antoinette Lattouf hosting ABC Sydney's mornings show.

- 1) Since she began hosting this week, how many complaints has the ABC received about Lattouf?
- 2) What are the main grievances from listeners?
- 3) Is the ABC investigating Latouff's conduct, including her social media use, relating to commentary she has made about the Israel-Gaza war?
- 4) Who appointed Latouff to fill in for ABC Sydney mornings?
- 5) How long will she be on air as a fill-in host?
- 6) Is management reviewing her tenure as a fill-in host?

Can you please come back to me by 1.30pm today.

Thank you,
Sophie

SOPHIE ELSWORTH
Media Writer


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THE AUSTRALIAN 

For the informed Australian

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TAB-66

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 12:43 PM
To: Nick Leys; Ben Latimer
Cc: Laura Todd; Nikki Tugwell
Subject: Re: Questions from The Australian

Across.

It looks like AL has now breached abc editorial guidelines. Ben reviewing, but if she has we will have to stand her down. If we do that we should do it before the story runs.

C

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: Nick Leys <Leys.Nick@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 12:41:45 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Cc: Laura Todd <Todd.Laura@abc.net.au>; Nikki Tugwell <Tugwell.Nikki@abc.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: Questions from The Australian

Clearly complaints have been shared.

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From: Elsworth, Sophie <sophie.elsworth@news.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:24
To: Nick Leys <Leys.Nick@abc.net.au>; Sally Jackson <Jackson.Sally@abc.net.au>
Subject: Questions from The Australian

Hi Nick,

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Media Writer


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TAB-67

From: Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 2:57 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor; Ben Latimer; Simon Melkman
Subject: Re: 702 guest presenter

Chris and Ben,

Confirming that I had a short conversation with Antoinette in the managers office of ABC Radio Sydney at about 1245 today. Witnesses were Mark Spurway and Elizabeth Green.

In that conversation I made the following points:

1. Elizabeth backgrounded you earlier this week on a perception of bias on the Israel-Gaza situation
2. Elizabeth advised you not to post anything that could be perceived as controversial on your socials, while you are on air with us this week. You acknowledged that you understood.
3. 20 hours ago you shared a post that could be considered controversial and was about Israel-Gaza.
4. In the context of your other posts, this is considered a breach of ABC policies and so you will not be required to present the last two programs you have been booked to present tomorrow and Friday.

Antoinette was quiet and accepted the information without comment. At the end she said that she had been asked not to comment on Israel-Gaza on her program and she had not done so, she had kept it a light holiday feel. I acknowledged her points and agreed that she had not discussed Israel-Gaza in the show, I also said that this was not about the show, it was about social media posting that she had been asked not to do.

She also said she considered the post factual. I did not comment on whether the post was factual or not, but repeated that it was a post about Israel-Gaza, and that she had been asked not to post about that while she was on air with us this week. She did not reply to that.

The meeting took about 5 minutes. At the end, I asked her to explain to her production team that she would not be doing the show on Thursday and Friday then to leave as soon as possible after that.

I then explained the situation to the production team using the points above. Two of the three in the team are experienced ABC producers and understood, the third is a younger producer who did not have any experience of such things. One of the experienced producers asked did the ABC cave in to the Jewish lobby, I explained that this was about a breach of ABC policies and that Antoinette had been asked not to post about it but had done so.

I also phoned Simon Marnie, a long standing ABC employee who is currently presenting breakfast. I briefly explained the situation, which he immediately understood in the context of ABC guidelines and policies. He will do a long shift tomorrow and Friday until 10pm, when we will join the national summer morning program, presented by Cathy Schnitzeing from Brisbane. He will tell the audience that we are now going into our summer programming schedule and that they will hear a range of new voices on the station during the summer break as usual.

Simon will make no comment about Antoinette on air and will avoid talkback on Israel-Gaza. He is experienced in using the dump button and will dump anyone who tries to raise the topic. The program team will tell anyone who asks that we have now gone to summer programming and the summer presenter is Cathy. Cathy was already scheduled to present national summer mornings next week.

Regards,
Steve



Steve Ahern
A/Head ABC Capital City Radio Network



E ahern.steve@abc.net.au
W <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/radio/abc.net.au>

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 12:22 PM
To: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>; Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Subject: Re: 702 guest presenter

As per chat Ben, please send screenshot. Then let's review asap

Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer
ABC

From: Ben Latimer <Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 12:19:07 PM
To: Simon Melkman <Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>; Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>
Subject: 702 guest presenter

Steve,

I have just seen Insta story posts by Antoinette regarding Israel-Gaza posted 18-hours ago. The clear instructions were to direct Antoinette not to post to socials for the rest of this week. Simon, Chris, Steve – can you please review the Insta stories and then let's chat as soon as possible this afternoon?

Thanks,
Ben



Ben Latimer
Head of Audio Content

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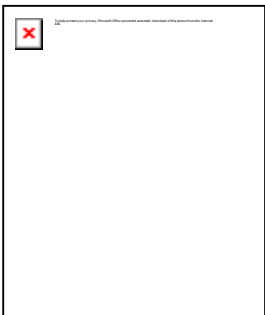
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TAB-68

From: Chris Oliver-Taylor <Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au>
Sent: Thursday, 21 December 2023 4:20 PM
To: Chris Oliver-Taylor
Subject: File Note COT December 23

- Main lightning rod is the contentious journalism in Crikey. It was a “fact based, research based” article. Debating how Jews were described in Sydney on the October evening
 - Other comments on social media are clearly polarising on Instagram
 - But she has not breached any ABC Editorial policies
 - or Code 4 of the Code of Practice (i.e. our impartiality standards). The Code applies to content we broadcast, not our hiring decisions. Some of the complainants seem to think we’ve breached our impartiality standards because of her Crikey story... but we aren’t responsible for that story and it certainly isn’t subject to our Code of Practice.
 - She has signed the petition, but we have other people on staff who have signed the petition and we have not fired them
 - Her work is not related to anything on Gaza/Israel war. This week is significantly watered down content in the lead up to Christmas
 - Screened producers/bolstered approach to phone calls
 - **Highest potential controversy is us pulling her off air and the story is that there is unjustifiable complaints from a pro Israel lobby that has led to her sacking**
 - Women’s Agenda article (published earlier today) is worth a read:
<https://womensagenda.com.au/latest/no-tactic-is-off-the-table-women-journalists-call-out-mainstream-media-for-targeted-accusations-and-half-truths/> [womensagenda.com.au]
 - Antoinette is quoted in it as saying: “The intention of tabloid media campaigns which target individuals with a platform is to get us to shut up. To look away, to stop investigating and stop revealing harm. Essentially to stop doing our job. And if we don’t try to shut up they discredit us in a bid for us to lose our jobs. No tactic is off the table from reporting blatant lies about us, mischaracterisations, and pressuring employers. I will continue to report and comment without fear or favour, especially when so many innocent lives are at stake and there’s so much hate and division in Australia.”
1. AF engaged as a casual presenter for 5 shifts in the week before Christmas
 2. Apparently no checks were made as to whether she could be considered impartial for the ABC’s audience
 3. AF started on Monday 18th December – the show passed without incident and no reference to the War
 4. Complaints did start to come in about her suitability to present
 5. Following Tuesday’s show, more complaints were delivered
 6. These complaints were forwarded to myself – in turn discussed them with Ben and Simon, advice and decision was that she has not breached any ABC social media guidelines nor clause 4 of The Act
 7. A/Cap City Manager was asked to ensure that AF did not post anything controversial about the War whilst on air, and ideally refrain from posting anything at all. Meeting held by Content Director on Tuesday afternoon. She “understood”
 8. I briefed the MD as he had been receiving the complaints and explained that our recommendation was that she had not breached and therefore should stay on air. The show makes no mention of the war, there is a heightened focus on talkback management and that the “dump” button will be used if required. The MD agreed.

9. On Wednesday. She presented her third shift. At around 1130am Ben informed Steve, Simon and myself that she has posted a couple of things to social media. One was a comment about diversity of voices and the other was a repost of how Israel is using starvation tactics in the War. On review, and in discussion with this group, it was agreed that she has breached the trust of the program by not following a request and she has also breached impartiality around personal use of social media.
10. Simultaneously The Australian were chasing me and the ABC for comment as they had a story about this.
11. I asked Steve whether he thought that we had no option whether we could put her to air. He thought we had no choice but to not allow her back. A view supported by the group.
12. I explained to the MD via text initially that Local Radio Sydney had decided to not put AF back on air due to this breach. I then briefly spoke to the MD and told him this (at lunchtime on Wednesday). I did not ask the MD to make a decision, I told him that due to a breach and potential risk of impartiality to the ABC that AF could not continue on air. He did not disagree.
13. I then actioned Ben to tell Steve and his team to action a brief meeting to discuss with AF which happened shortly thereafter.
14. AF was briefed, see Steve's record for that meeting and AF left shortly thereafter.
15. The Australian ran a story saying AF had been "sacked" which was not true.
16. Around 5pm AF sent a letter to local radio sydney asking a number of questions and threatening legal action, something she repeated online later that night.



Chris Oliver-Taylor
Chief Content Officer



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