

## NOTICE OF FILING

### Details of Filing

Document Lodged: Affidavit - Form 59 - Rule 29.02(1)  
Court of Filing: FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA (FCA)  
Date of Lodgment: 17/02/2025 12:37:51 PM AEDT  
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File Title: ANTOINETTE LATTOUF v AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION  
Registry: NEW SOUTH WALES REGISTRY - FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "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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### Details of Filing

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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: **Benjamin James Latimer**  
Address: c/- 700 Harris Street, Ultimo NSW 2007  
Occupation: Head of Audio, Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
Date: 14 October 2024

### Contents

Document number	Details	Paragraph	Page
1	Affidavit of <b>Benjamin James Latimer</b> affirmed on 14 October 2024.	1	1
2	<b>Exhibit "BL-1"</b> .		

I, Benjamin James Latimer, care of 700 Harris Street, Ultimo NSW 2007, affirm:

- I am the Head of Audio Content at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (**ABC**).
- 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, I identify the source of that information and otherwise believe such information to be true

Filed on behalf of (name & role of party) Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the Respondent  
Prepared by (name of person/lawyer) Ben Glenn Dudley  
Law firm (if applicable) Seyfarth Shaw Australia  
Tel (02) 8256 0413 Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email [bdudley@seyfarth.com](mailto:bdudley@seyfarth.com)  
**Address for service** Level 40, Governor Phillip Tower, 1 Farrer Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000  
(include state and postcode) \_\_\_\_\_

[Version 3 form approved 02/05/2019]

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. In making this affidavit, I have in front of me, and have had regard to, **Exhibit BL-1**.
5. 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.

### **BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATION**

6. I have been in my current role as Head of Audio Content at the ABC since August 2023.
7. Prior to my current role, I have had over 15 years' experience in the industry of radio and digital audio. My previous industry experience includes holding the following positions:
  - (a) Head of Content at NOVA Entertainment (**NOVA**), responsible for all national output, from September 2019 to April 2023;
  - (b) Head of Programming (Sydney) at NOVA, from October 2017 to August 2019;
  - (c) Smoothfm Network Program Director (Sydney & Melbourne) at NOVA, from July 2017 to October 2017;
  - (d) Head of 'On Demand' at FOXTEL, from October 2014 to June 2017; and
  - (e) other content producer and director roles at FOXTEL and the Australian Radio Network prior to 2014.

### **My role at the ABC**

8. In my role of Head of Audio Content, I am responsible for the performance of all audio content and programming on ABC platforms, including live radio shows, podcasts, and other audio-related content.
9. I report directly to Mr Chris Oliver-Taylor, Chief Content Officer.




10. Each of the heads of local and national radio networks report to me, including the Head of Capital City Networks. The Managers of each local radio station report indirectly to me.

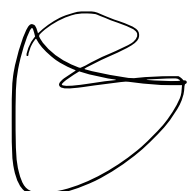
### **ANTOINETTE LATTOUF**

11. Prior to December 2023, I did not know, and had never heard of, Antoinette Lattouf.
12. Prior to 18 December 2023, it was not made known to me that Ms Lattouf had been engaged as a fill in presenter on *Sydney Mornings*. At the time that Ms Lattouf was engaged by the ABC, I am aware that Steve Ahern was acting as the Head of Capital City Networks.
13. The first time I became aware that Ms Lattouf was engaged with the ABC was when I received an email forwarded to me from Mr Oliver-Taylor on 18 December 2023 (which I refer to in paragraph 15 below).
14. In the week commencing Monday, 18 December 2023, I communicated instructions to Mr Ahern, with the understanding that he would relay this information to Ms Lattouf. I otherwise had no direct interaction with Ms Lattouf. I outline the full scope of my involvement with matters relating to Ms Lattouf in this affidavit.

### **MONDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2023**

15. On Monday, 18 December 2023, I received a number of emails in relation to Ms Lattouf. Enclosed behind **Tab 1 of Exhibit BL-1** is a bundle containing those emails, with each email marked separately in chronological order. In relation to those emails:
- (a) at 1:49 pm, Mr Oliver-Taylor sent an email to Mr Ahern, asking him to ensure that Ms Lattouf *"is not and has not been posting anything that would suggest she is not impartial"* and seeking advice. Where Mr Oliver-Taylor referred to being *"forwarded a number of complaints from the MD's office"*, I understood this to mean that he had been provided the complaints from Ita Buttrose, Chair of the ABC and/or David Anderson, Managing Director of the ABC. Enclosed behind **Tab 1-a** is a copy of this email;
- (b) at 2:53 pm, Simon Melkman, Acting Editorial Director, sent an email to Mr Oliver-Taylor, Mr Ahern, and Sashka Koloff, Managing Editor, Standards & Compliance,

- in response to Mr Oliver-Taylor's email at 1.49 pm (as referred to in sub-paragraph (a) above). Enclosed behind **Tab 1-b** is a copy of this email;
- (c) at 3:32 pm, Mr Ahern sent an email to Mr Oliver-Taylor, in response to his email at 1.49 pm (as referred to in sub-paragraph (a) above). Enclosed behind **Tab 1-c** is a copy of this email;
- (d) at 3:43 pm, Ms Koloff sent an email to me and Mr Oliver-Taylor (excluding Mr Ahern and Mr Melkman from the email chain), in response to the email from Mr Ahern at 3.32 pm (as referred to in sub-paragraph (c) above). Enclosed behind **Tab 1-d** is a copy of this email;
- (e) at 3.45 pm, Mr Ahern sent an email to Mr Melkman, Mr Oliver-Taylor and Ms Koloff, in response to Ms Melkman's email at 3.32 pm (as referred to in sub-paragraph (b) above). Enclosed behind **Tab 1-e** is a copy of this email;
- (f) at 3.48 pm, Mr Melkman sent an email to Mr Ahern, Mr Oliver-Taylor and Ms Koloff, agreeing with what Mr Ahern had written in his email at 3.45 pm (as referred to in sub-paragraph (e) above). Enclosed behind **Tab 1-f** is a copy of this email;
- (g) at 3.54 pm, Mr Oliver-Taylor sent an email to Mr Melkman, Mr Ahern, and Ms Koloff, agreeing with both Mr Melkman and Mr Ahern's views and recommendations (as referred to in sub-paragraphs (e) and (f) above). In his email, Mr Oliver-Taylor wrote *"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"*. Enclosed behind **Tab 1-g** is a copy of this email;
- (h) at 4.07 pm, Mr Oliver-Taylor sent an email to Mr Anderson with an update in relation to Ms Lattouf. Enclosed behind **Tab 1-h** is a copy of this email;
- (i) at 8.51 pm, Mr Oliver-Taylor sent an email to me and Mr Ahern (copying Mr Melkman) which said *"Team, MDO just sent me this. I think we have a problem C"*, and enclosing a screenshot of Ms Lattouf's social media activity. Upon reading and considering this email, my initial reaction was that, based solely on the content of screenshot provided by Mr Oliver-Taylor, it may compromise the ABC's impartiality to have Ms Lattouf on air if she shared content on social media that expressed a partisan view on the Israel-Gaza war. When I refer to a "partisan



view” in this context, what I mean is a view which is supportive of one side of the Israel-Gaza conflict over the other. Notwithstanding this, I was cognisant that:

- i. the screenshot in Mr Oliver-Taylor’s email was dated before Ms Lattouf’s engagement with the ABC commencing 18 December 2023; and
- ii. I did not understand the full context in which the comment by Ms Lattouf was made.

Enclosed behind **Tab 1-i** is a copy of this email.

- (j) at 8:57 pm, 9.01 pm, 9.15 pm, 11.00 pm and 11.03 pm, I received further emails from Mr Ahern, Mr Oliver-Taylor and Mr Melkman. Enclosed behind **Tab 1-j, Tab 1-k, Tab 1-l, Tab 1-m** and **Tab 1-n** are copies of these emails.

I recall receiving the emails referred to above and reading them at about the time that I received them, but I do not recall speaking to anyone that day about the content of those emails.

## **TUESDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2023**

16. On Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 6.48 am, Mr Ahern sent an email to me, Mr Oliver-Taylor and Mr Melkman, in response to a chain of emails from the night before (referred to in paragraph 15 above). At 6.53 am, I sent an email to Mr Ahern, Mr Melkman, Mr Oliver-Taylor and Sara-Jane King, my Executive Assistant, proposing that Mr Ahern, Mr Melkman and I speak later in the morning. Enclosed behind **Tab 2** of **Exhibit BL-1** is a copy of this email chain.
17. On Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 11.10 am, Mr Melkman sent an email to me and Mr Ahern (copying Mr Oliver-Taylor) with a summary of matters discussed during a meeting that morning. Based on the content of this email, I accept that Mr Ahern, Mr Melkman and I met that morning as suggested in my email at 6.48 am, but I do not now have an independent recollection of the discussions that occurred during that meeting.

18. On Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 11.15 am, Mr Oliver-Taylor sent an email to me, Mr Melkman and Mr Ahern in relation to next steps concerning Ms Lattouf. Mr Oliver-Taylor said in that email:

*“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.”*

19. When Mr Oliver-Taylor wrote *“he may well hold a different view and we will need to pivot”*, I understood him to mean that he would speak to Mr Anderson (as the person to whom he reports) to let him know the proposed steps that we were going to take in relation to Ms Lattouf. Enclosed behind **Tab 3** of **Exhibit BL-1** is a copy of the email chain referred to above.
20. My recollection is that, at some time before I received the email from Mr Oliver-Taylor at 11.15 am, I had a discussion with Mr Ahern during which I instructed him to direct Ms Lattouf that she should not post anything on social media while she was engaged by the ABC that week. In particular, I distinctly recall saying the following words to Mr Ahern:

*You are to direct Antoinette Lattouf not to post anything on social media.*

21. My recollection is that my instruction to Mr Ahern was clear and unambiguous. Ms Lattouf was to be directed not to post anything on social media for the period that she was performing work with the ABC: that is, for the rest of that week.
22. My best recollection is that I gave this instruction to Mr Ahern during the meeting between Mr Ahern, Mr Melkman and I that morning. However, it is possible that I did so in a telephone or video call. To the best of my recollection, Mr Ahern said to me words to the effect that he would make sure Ms Lattouf was given that direction. I left this conversation feeling confident that Mr Ahern would action my request, particularly as he had said he would do so.
23. On Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 11.19 am, I was copied on an email from Mr Oliver-Taylor to Mr Anderson with an update regarding Ms Lattouf. Enclosed behind **Tab 4** of **Exhibit BL-1** is a copy of this email.






24. On Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 1.16 pm, Mr Ahern sent an email to me and Mr Melkman (copying Mr Oliver-Taylor). In this email, Mr Ahern wrote: *"I can confirm that our Content Director Elizabeth has...suggested that Antoinette may be wise not to post anything on her socials this week"*. I recall that, upon reading this comment, I was satisfied that Ms Lattouf had been given a direction in accordance with the instruction I had given to Mr Ahern (referred to in paragraph 20 and 21 above). The reason I formed this view was because:
- (a) in my experience, Mr Ahern had always followed my instructions. I had no reason to doubt that he had done so in this case, and actioned the instruction that I had given to him;
  - (b) I did not think Mr Ahern would have failed to comply with my clear instruction;
  - (c) in my experience, Mr Ahern had a "gentle" style of communicating, so the language that he used in this email did not suggest to me that my direction had not been followed through; and
  - (d) I was not scrutinising the precise words Mr Ahern had used in his email to me. Rather, I read his email as conveying that he had actioned my request.

Enclosed behind **Tab 5 of Exhibit BL-1** is a copy of this email.

25. After this, on Tuesday, 19 December 2023, between 3.45 pm and 4.50 pm, I received a number of emails in relation to complaints that had been made about Ms Lattouf. Enclosed behind **Tab 6 of Exhibit BL-1** is a bundle of these emails.
26. I recall that, at some time during the early evening of Tuesday, 19 December 2023, I had a telephone conversation with Mr Oliver-Taylor. I recall having a conversation that evening because I remember that I was out walking my dog while I was on the telephone to Mr Oliver-Taylor. From my perspective, the main substance of the discussion was to provide mutual support and encouragement to each other as colleagues and friends, considering the work-related stress we were experiencing. While I do not now recall precisely how the discussion took place, I do recall that during that conversation Mr Oliver-Taylor and I:
- (a) discussed the number of complaints being received about Ms Lattouf, and the pressure that Mr Oliver-Taylor was under in relation to this;




(b) were both of the view that the ABC should withstand any pressure to take Ms Lattouf off air and that she should continue for the remainder of the week. In other words, we agreed with each other that Ms Lattouf should remain on-air for her scheduled shifts that week; and

(c) discussed that Mr Anderson supported our views in that regard.

27. I particularly recall that, during my conversation with Mr Oliver-Taylor that evening, we were firm in our view that Ms Lattouf should remain on-air for her scheduled shifts that week. My view about that was that the risks associated with her remaining on air were being managed by her having been told not to post anything on social media (as I had instructed).


### **WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2023**

28. On Wednesday, 20 December 2023 at 12.05 pm, Ms Koloff sent me a text message with a screenshot of something Ms Lattouf had posted on social media the night before. Enclosed behind **Tab 7 of Exhibit BL-1** is a copy of the text message from Ms Koloff.

29. I recall that, when I saw the screenshot that Ms Koloff sent, I felt frustrated because Ms Lattouf had posted on social media, despite me having given an instruction to Mr Ahern that she should be told not to post on social media and my understanding that that instruction had been followed (as referred to above). Regardless of the content of what Ms Lattouf had posted on social media, in my mind, by posting anything at all, she had failed to follow the direction that I had asked Mr Ahern to make sure she was given and that I understood she had, in fact, been given.

30. Shortly after this, I looked at Ms Lattouf's social media accounts. It was in the course of doing this, that I discovered Ms Lattouf had put posts on Instagram. Prior to this, I recall receiving a communication from someone (separate to the text message referred to in paragraph 28 above) containing other screenshots that I understood to be from Ms Lattouf's Instagram account, but I cannot now locate a record of this. This is what prompted me to look at Ms Lattouf's Instagram page.

31. Shortly after this, I recall speaking to Mr Oliver-Taylor on the telephone very briefly to discuss the fact that Ms Lattouf had posted on social media. I do not now recall precisely what we discussed, but to the best of my recollection it was to confirm that we should



talk with other relevant ABC staff about what we should do now that Ms Lattouf had not followed the direction given to her.

32. Following this, on Wednesday, 20 December 2024 at 12.19 pm, I sent an email to Mr Ahern, Mr Oliver-Taylor and Mr Melkman, addressed to Mr Ahern. I extract part of that email below:

*"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?"*

The content of this email accurately reflects my state of mind in relation to its subject matter at the time.

33. On Wednesday, 20 December 2023 at 12.23 pm, Mr Oliver-Taylor responded to my email at 12.19 pm, asking me to send him a screenshot of the "posts" which I had referred to. I cannot now recall whether I responded to that email, and cannot find any record of having responded to it. However, I may have sent a screenshot of Ms Lattouf's social media activity to him using the "Signal" application. My messages from that date can no longer be accessed on that application, so I am unsure whether I sent the posts to Mr Oliver-Taylor. Enclosed behind **Tab 8** of **Exhibit BL-1** is a copy of the email chain referred to above in paragraphs 32 and 33.
34. Soon after I received the email from Mr Oliver-Taylor at 12.23 pm referred to above, I attended a meeting with Mr Ahern, Mr Melkman and Mr Oliver-Taylor. The meeting took place by way of video-conference using the Microsoft Teams software. I recall Elizabeth Green, Content Director, was invited to join the meeting but I cannot now recall whether she, in fact, attended.
35. To the best of my recollection:
- (a) at the beginning of the meeting, there was some frustration expressed by Mr Oliver-Taylor and me towards Mr Ahern, given that I had asked Mr Ahern to make sure that Ms Lattouf be directed not to post anything on social media, but had still

done so. I recall asking Mr Ahern why Ms Lattouf had posted on social media when she had been asked not to do so;

- (b) Mr Ahern confirmed that Ms Lattouf had been told not to post anything on social media and I recall that he was unable to provide an explanation at the time as to why she had done so;
- (c) we looked at the nature of the Instagram post, being that it clearly related to the Israel-Gaza conflict. In forming the view referred to in paragraph 15(i) above, I shared the view that it may compromise the ABC's impartiality to have Ms Lattouf on air in circumstances where she shared content on social media that expressed a partisan view on the Israel-Gaza war. There were a number of posts we discussed in the meeting, including the post referred to in paragraph 28 above, as well as 2 or 3 other posts that had been shared with me (as I referred to in paragraph 30 above, noting that I cannot now locate these messages);
- (d) we discussed that Ms Lattouf had failed to follow a direction given to her;
- (e) Mr Melkman spoke about whether Ms Lattouf had breached the ABC's editorial policies, but I otherwise do not recall Mr Melkman speaking much during the call;
- (f) we discussed what should be done with Ms Lattouf, including whether she should be taken off air. I recall that everyone on the call was asked what they thought about taking Ms Lattouf off air. I recall saying that I did not have any objection to that being done; and
- (g) we reached a consensus as a group that Ms Lattouf would be told that she would not complete the rest of her shifts on-air for week, and would be taken off air (**Decision**). In particular, I recall Mr Oliver-Taylor using words to the effect of: "*does anybody disagree with the course of action outlined*". In response to this question, I recall that none of the attendees at the meeting objected to the Decision.

36. I recall feeling comfortable that taking Ms Lattouf off air was the right course of action.


37. My sole reason for supporting the Decision was my view that Ms Lattouf's conduct in making the posts referred to in paragraphs 28 and 30 was in breach of a direction that I understood had been given to her in accordance with my instructions.




37. My sole reason for supporting the Decision was my view that Ms Lattouf's conduct in making the posts referred to in paragraphs 28 and 30 was in breach of a direction that I understood had been given to her in accordance with my instructions.
38. I understood that everyone who attended the meeting had looked at Ms Lattouf's Instagram profile before joining the meeting. However, I do not know whether, in fact, they did so.
39. I cannot recall anyone speaking about the *ABC Enterprise Agreement 2022 (ABC EA)* in the meeting. In my experience, it would usually be the responsibility of the Local Manager or the Manager of the Network to consider personnel issues and consult with People & Culture if necessary.
40. I recall leaving the meeting with the understanding that Mr Oliver-Taylor would speak to Mr Anderson to let him know about the situation. My understanding was that Mr Oliver-Taylor was the person with responsibility for making the Decision.
41. During the meeting:
- (a) the words "sack" or "terminate" (or similar words) were not used, because the discussion was just about whether Ms Lattouf would continue to be "on air" for the rest of the week; and
  - (b) there was no mention of Ms Lattouf's race, national extraction, or any political opinions that she had or may have had.
42. Shortly after the meeting, Mr Oliver-Taylor contacted me to confirm that the Decision was final. In this short call, I recall that Mr Oliver-Taylor said to me that he had been unable to speak directly to Mr Anderson, but that he had sent him a text message. Mr Oliver-Taylor conveyed to me that the Decision (and the steps we had agreed on in the meeting referred to above) needed to be actioned immediately.
43. After speaking to Mr Oliver-Taylor, I called Mr Ahern and directed him to take steps to take Ms Lattouf off-air. In particular, I recall using words to the effect of, "*activate the plan.*" I cannot now recall the exact words used in this call, but I recall being very direct to Mr Ahern and telling him that Mr Oliver-Taylor had called me, and that Mr Ahern should proceed immediately with the plan we had agreed on in the meeting. When I gave this instruction to Mr Ahern, what I meant was that he should meet with Ms Lattouf

and the team and tell her that the ABC did not need her for the rest of the week. I did not mean that Mr Ahern should “sack” Ms Lattouf or terminate her employment.

44. At or around the same time as the meeting (which I refer to above in paragraphs 34 to 41), I recall becoming aware that a journalist working for *The Australian* newspaper had made an enquiry about Ms Lattouf. This is not out of the ordinary, as the ABC receives enquiries about radio presenters all of the time. This contact from *The Australian* did not in any way inform or impact the Decision.
45. I have no knowledge of how or why the Decision was reported in *The Australian*. On Wednesday, 20 December 2023 at 6.02 pm, Mr Ahern sent an email to me and Mr Oliver-Taylor, forwarding an email from Ms Lattouf received at 5.23 pm that day. I recall reading this email, and I was of the view that it was the responsibility of Mr Ahern to work with the legal team in relation to the ABC’s response. I was not involved in this process. Enclosed behind **Tab 9** of **Exhibit BL-1** is a copy of this email.



46. In this affidavit I have given a complete account of my reasoning in relation to everything that I thought, did or said in relation to Ms Lattouf, in the sense that I have included every reason that I considered or on which I acted. Nothing that I thought, did or said in relation to Ms Lattouf involved any consideration, or in any way took into account, anything that I knew about the fact or content of any political opinions that Ms Lattouf had or may have had. I was not influenced by anything that any person who complained in relation to Ms Lattouf said about her or her opinions or conduct. Nothing that I thought, did or said in relation to Ms Lattouf involved any consideration, or in any way took into account, anything that I knew about, 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 anything that I thought, did or said in relation to Ms Lattouf.

Affirmed by the deponent  
at Adelaide  
in South Australia  
on 14 October 2024  
Before me:



Signature of deponent  
Benjamin James Latimer



Signature of witness

Mary-Anne Rossi Nolan

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

This document was signed in counterparts and witnessed over audio-visual link in accordance with Part 2B of the *Electronic Transactions Act 2000* (NSW) with the deponent in Adelaide and the witness in Sydney.

Form 59  
Rule 29.02(1)

## Exhibit

**BL-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 "**BL-1**" referred to in the Affidavit of **Benjamin James Latimer** affirmed on 14 October 2024 in Adelaide, South Australia.

Before me:

---

*Signature of witness*

Name of witness: Mary-Anne Rossi Nolan

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).



Form 59  
Rule 29.02(1)

## Exhibit

**BL-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 "**BL-1**" referred to in the Affidavit of **Benjamin James Latimer** affirmed on 14 October 2024 in Adelaide, South Australia.

Before me:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of witness*

Name of witness: Mary-Anne Rossi Nolan

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 BL-1

Tab	Date	Document
<b>Monday, 18 December 2023</b>		
1.	18 December 2023, between 1.49 pm and 11.03 pm	Bundle of emails between S. Ahern, S. Melkman, C. Oliver-Taylor, S. Koloff and B. Latimer (marked from Tab 1a to Tab 1-n)
<b>Tuesday, 19 December 2023</b>		
2.	19 December 2023, 6.48 am	Email chain between S. Ahern, S. Melkman, C. Oliver-Taylor and B. Latimer
3.	19 December 2023, 11.15 am	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to S. Ahern, S. Melkman, and B. Latimer
4.	19 December 2023, 11.19 am	Email from C. Oliver-Taylor to D, Anderson copy B. Latimer
5.	19 December 2023, 1.16 pm	Email from S. Ahern to S. Melkman and B. Latimer copy C. Oliver-Taylor
6.	19 December 2023, between 3.45 pm and 4.50 pm	Bundle of emails in relation to complaints made about Antoinette Lattouf
<b>Wednesday, 20 December 2023</b>		
7.	20 December 2023, 12.05 pm	Text message from S. Koloff to B. Latimer
8.	20 December 2023, between 12.19 pm and 12.23 pm	Email chain between S. Ahern, S. Melkman, C. Oliver-Taylor and B. Latimer
9.	20 December 2023, 6.02 pm	Email from S. Ahern to C. Oliver-Taylor and B. Latimer

## Tab 1-a

**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



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Chris Oliver-Taylor  
Chief Content Officer



---

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## Tab 1-b

**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/](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](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 1:51:05 PM  
**To:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>; Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>; Sashka Koloff <[Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au](mailto: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

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

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

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## Tab 1-c

**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**

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**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

---

M [REDACTED]  
E [ahern.steve@abc.net.au](mailto: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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**Chris Oliver-Taylor**  
Chief Content Officer

---

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## Tab 1-d

**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>  
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- 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.
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#### **9:25 SONG I'm Every Woman - Chaka Khan**

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

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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**

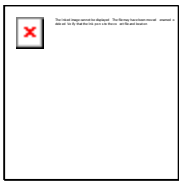
Wenlei Ma, film and TV critic - STUDIO

## 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.
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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

M [REDACTED]  
E [ahern.steve@abc.net.au](mailto: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>  
**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



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Chris Oliver-Taylor  
Chief Content Officer

M: [REDACTED]

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## Tab 1-e

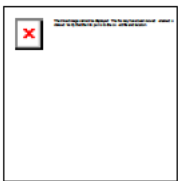
**From:** Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 December 2023 3:45 PM  
**To:** Simon Melkman; Sashka Koloff; Chris Oliver-Taylor  
**Cc:** Ben Latimer  
**Subject:** Re: Antoinette Lattouf

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,  
Steve



**Steve Ahern**  
A/Head ABC Capital City Radio Network

---

M [REDACTED]  
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W <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/radio>  
[\[abc.net.au\]](https://www.abc.net.au)

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**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

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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  
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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  
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**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

M [REDACTED]  
E [ahern.steve@abc.net.au](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)  
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Chris Oliver-Taylor  
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M: [REDACTED]

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**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](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>

**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 3:45 PM

**To:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>; Sashka Koloff <[Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au](mailto:Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au)>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>

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Steve



Steve Ahern  
A/Head ABC Capital City Radio Network

---

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

---

**From:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 December 2023 2:53 PM  
**To:** Sashka Koloff <[Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au](mailto:Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au)>; Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto: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/](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://www.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](mailto:Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 1:55 PM  
**To:** Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>

**Cc:** Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>; Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 1:51:05 PM  
**To:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>; Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>; Sashka Koloff <[Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au](mailto: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

M [REDACTED]  
E [ahern.steve@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 December 2023 1:49 PM  
**To:** Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>; Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>; Sashka Koloff <[Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au](mailto: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

M: [REDACTED]

---

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 1-g

**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](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 3:45 PM  
**To:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>; Sashka Koloff <[Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au](mailto:Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au)>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto: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

---

M [REDACTED]  
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**To:** Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>

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**Subject:** Re: Antoinette Lattouf

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**To:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>; Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>; Sashka Koloff <[Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au](mailto:Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Antoinette Lattouf

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

---

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**Sent:** Monday, 18 December 2023 1:49 PM  
**To:** Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>; Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>; Sashka Koloff <[Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au](mailto:Koloff.Sashka@abc.net.au)>  
**Subject:** Antoinette Lattouf

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Thanks Steve

C



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

Chris Oliver-Taylor  
Chief Content Officer

M: [REDACTED]

---

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## Tab 1-h

**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 1-i

**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



ANTOINETTE\_LATTOUF  
Posts

Follow



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. ❤️❤️❤️

View all 107 comments

mattabbottphoto So good 🔥



yumichild Hummus manufacturers and chickpea farmers thank you for your service



12 November



## Tab 1-j

**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](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)  
W [abc.net.au/sydney](http://abc.net.au/sydney) [[abc.net.au](http://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 1-k

**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>  
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E [ahern.steve@abc.net.au](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)  
W [abc.net.au/sydney](http://abc.net.au/sydney) [[abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)]

---

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**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 1-I

**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](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)  
W [abc.net.au/sydney](http://abc.net.au/sydney) [[abc.net.au](http://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

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**Subject:** Antoinette

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C

Chris Oliver-Taylor  
Chief Content Officer  
ABC



## Tab 1-m

**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==](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

**RESPONDING TO FAN MAIL ABOUT GAZA**

1/70

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

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

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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mattabbottphoto So good 🍌

yumichild Hummus manufacturers and chickpea farmers thank you for your service

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  
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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mattabbottphoto So good 🍌

yumichild Hummus manufacturers and chickpea farmers thank you for your service

ANTOINETTE\_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette\_lattouf

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 🤡  
7m Reply

Antoinette Lattouf - Creator  
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1s ago Reply

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Pete  
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2h Reply

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user93184219728  
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23h Reply

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can u talk to my gov .  
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Chandrika Nair  
1948 is history 7th Oct is current.  
18h 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

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Cheers  
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**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:15 PM  
**To:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)

W [abc.net.au/sydney](http://abc.net.au/sydney) [[abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)]

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ABC

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Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

E [ahern.steve@abc.net.au](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)

W [abc.net.au/sydney](http://abc.net.au/sydney) [[abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)]

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**From:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:50:33 PM  
**To:** Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
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C

Chris Oliver-Taylor  
Chief Content Officer  
ABC

## Tab 1-n

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**Sent:** Monday, 18 December 2023 11:03 PM  
**To:** Simon Melkman; Steve Ahern; Ben Latimer  
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ABC

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ANTOINETTE\_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette\_lattouf

**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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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

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

politicians and media commentators L... 22h more

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ANTOINETTE\_LATTOUF Posts Follow

antoinette\_lattouf

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Frankie tan can u talk to my gov ,

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5h Reply

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2s ago Reply

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**Subject:** Re: Antoinette

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Steve Ahern

Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

E [ahern.steve@abc.net.au](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)

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■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

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**Cc:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>  
**Subject:** Antoinette

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C

Chris Oliver-Taylor  
Chief Content Officer  
ABC



## Tab 2

**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>  
**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](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)

W [abc.net.au/sydney](http://abc.net.au/sydney)

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**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>  
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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==](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:

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. ❤️❤️❤️

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

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

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

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](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:15 PM  
**To:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)

W [abc.net.au/sydney](http://abc.net.au/sydney)

---

**From:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:00:30 PM  
**To:** Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:57:22 PM  
**To:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)

W [abc.net.au/sydney](http://abc.net.au/sydney)

---

**From:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:50:33 PM  
**To:** Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto: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 3

**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

---

**From:** Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2023 7:07 AM  
**To:** Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>; Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>; Sara-Jane King <[King.Sara-Jane@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)

W [abc.net.au/sydney](http://abc.net.au/sydney) [[abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)]

---

**From:** Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2023 6:53:02 AM  
**To:** Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>; Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>; Sara-Jane King <[King.Sara-Jane@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 6:48 am  
**To:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>, Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>, Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)

W [abc.net.au/sydney](http://abc.net.au/sydney) [[abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)]

---

**From:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>

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

**To:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>; Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>

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

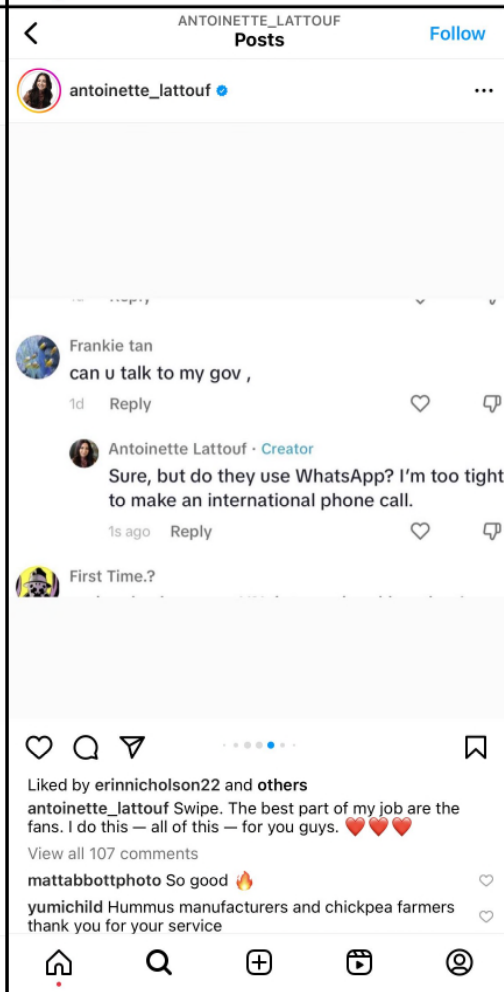
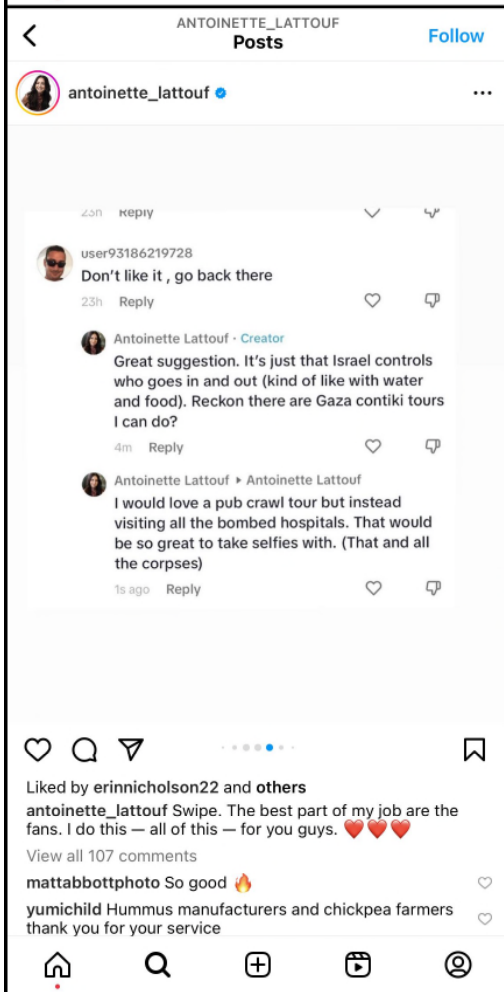
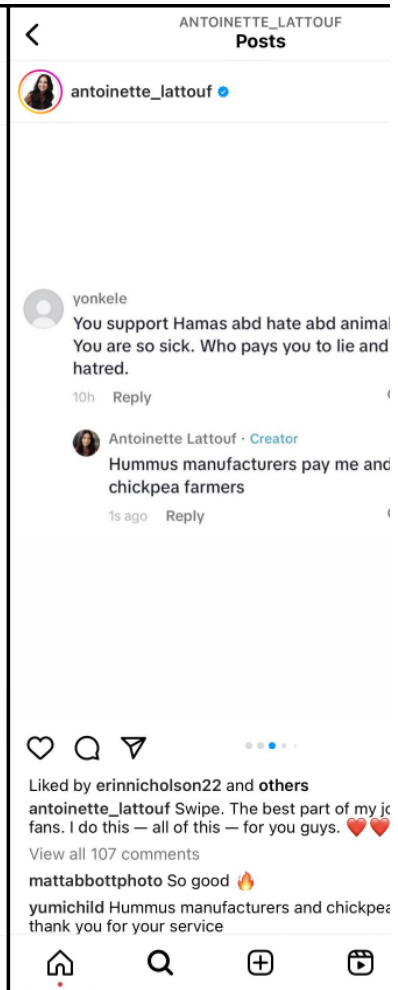
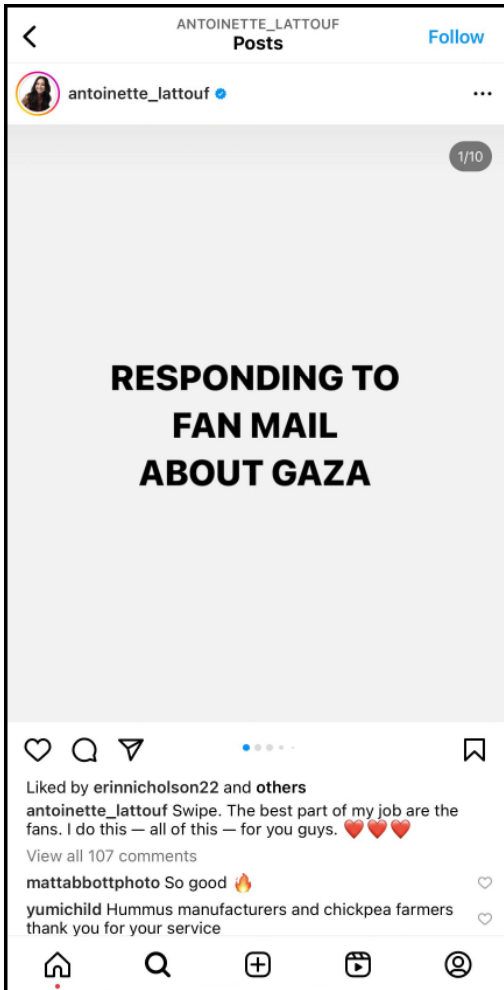
**To:** Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>

**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==](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:





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](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:15 PM  
**To:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)

W [abc.net.au/sydney](http://abc.net.au/sydney) [[abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)]

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**Cc:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Antoinette

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Chris Oliver-Taylor  
Chief Content Officer  
ABC

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**Cc:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)

W [abc.net.au/sydney](http://abc.net.au/sydney) [[abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)]

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**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:50:33 PM  
**To:** Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto: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 4

**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.

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

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- 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

## Tab 5

**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

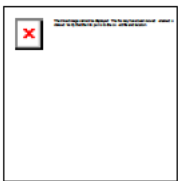
Hi Ben,

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

---

M [REDACTED]  
E [ahern.steve@abc.net.au](mailto: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  
**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](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)

---

**From:** Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2023 6:53:02 AM  
**To:** Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>; Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>; Sara-Jane King <[King.Sara-Jane@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 6:48 am  
**To:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>, Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>, Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)

W [abc.net.au/sydney](mailto:abc.net.au/sydney) [[abc.net.au](mailto:abc.net.au)]

---

**From:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 11:03:27 PM  
**To:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>; Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>

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

**To:** Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>; Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto: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==](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. ❤️❤️❤️

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

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

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yumichild Hummus manufacturers and chickpea farmers thank you for your service

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

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](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:15 PM  
**To:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)

W [abc.net.au/sydney](http://abc.net.au/sydney) [[abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)]

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**From:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:00:30 PM  
**To:** Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:57:22 PM  
**To:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)

W [abc.net.au/sydney](http://abc.net.au/sydney) [[abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)]

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**From:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:50:33 PM  
**To:** Steve Ahern <[Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au](mailto:Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au)>; Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto: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 6

**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 Lattouf; Re Message sent via ministerial website - ABC - your copy of details [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]; IABC breach of Code of Practice - Lattouf; Lattouf; Concerns Regarding Antoinette Lattouf's Presence on ABC radio Sydney; Antoinette Lattouf. ; 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 Lattouf; Radio 702 Sydney; Concerns about Antoinette Lattouf; ABC bias...again; Antoinette Lattouf is not impartial ]; ABC bias - Antoinette Lattouf ; Re Complaint about Antoinette Latouff.; Why is anti-Israel advocate hosting ABC show; Antoinette Lattouf; 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

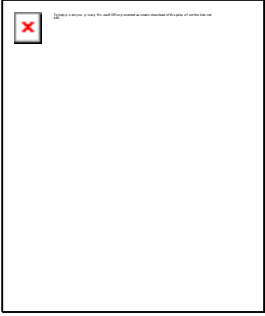
The Chair/Board has received several email complaints regarding Antoinette Latouff. After a discussion between Ita and David we've been advised to forward these emails to you - please find them attached.

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



M: [REDACTED]  
E: [Stokes.Lauren@abc.net.au](mailto: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:**

**Sent:**

**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

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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

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](mailto: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

[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==>

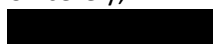
She is not a fit person to present on the ABC which should not support her racist antisemitic agenda.

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,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature.

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

---

**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 name]

[Redacted contact information]



**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]

**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](mailto:Stokes.Lauren@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2023 3:28 PM  
**To:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Vanessa Murray <[Murray.Vanessa@abc.net.au](mailto:Murray.Vanessa@abc.net.au)>; Managing Director's Office <[managingdirectorsoffice@abc.net.au](mailto: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](mailto: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:** 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

---

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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.

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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

---

**From:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2023 3:45 PM  
**To:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
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**Cc:** Vanessa Murray <[Murray.Vanessa@abc.net.au](mailto:Murray.Vanessa@abc.net.au)>; Managing Director's Office <[managingdirectorsoffice@abc.net.au](mailto:managingdirectorsoffice@abc.net.au)>  
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Thank you Chris

Kind regards  
Lauren



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Executive Assistant to the Chair  
[REDACTED]  
E: [Stokes.Lauren@abc.net.au](mailto:Stokes.Lauren@abc.net.au)

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**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>  
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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:** 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

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

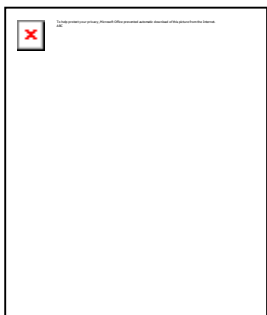
Dear Chris

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](mailto:Stokes.Lauren@abc.net.au)

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



**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

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**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

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

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**From:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2023 4:01 PM  
**To:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>

**Cc:** Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto: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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**From:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2023 3:57 PM  
**To:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
**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](https://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

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**From:** Chris Oliver-Taylor <[Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au](mailto:Oliver-Taylor.Chris@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2023 3:45 PM  
**To:** Simon Melkman <[Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au](mailto:Melkman.Simon@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Ben Latimer <[Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au](mailto:Latimer.Ben@abc.net.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Antoinette Latouff Emails / Chair's Office

Hi Simon,

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C

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

Dear Chris

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Kind regards  
Lauren



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

Lauren Stokes  
Executive Assistant to the Chair

  
E: [Stokes.Lauren@abc.net.au](mailto:Stokes.Lauren@abc.net.au)

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New iMessage

Cancel

To: Sashka Koloff



Wed, 20 Dec at 12:05 PM



0:37

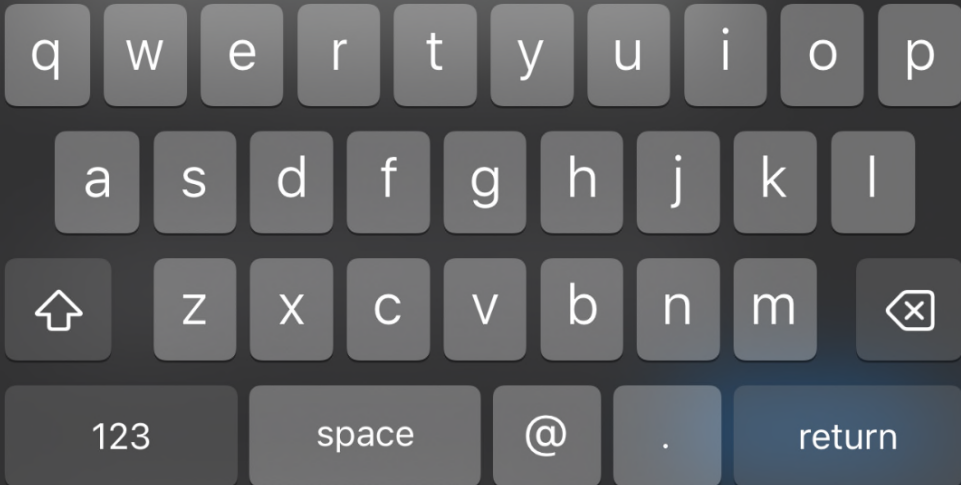
786

**Antoinette Lattouf** @antoinette\_ne... · 18h ...

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 & stop revealing harm. Essentially to stop doing our job. If we don't try to shut up they try to discredit us



+ iMessage



## Tab 8

**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

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

## Tab 9

**From:** Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 December 2023 6:02 PM  
**To:** Ben Latimer; Chris Oliver-Taylor  
**Subject:** Fwd: Questions regarding my dismissal  
**Attachments:** IMG\_4134.jpg

Ben and Chris,

Please see this email from Antoinette.

I do not propose to respond at this time. Nor will Mark or Elizabeth.

If you would like me to take any other action today, please let me know.

Steve

Steve Ahern  
Manager, ABC Radio Sydney

  
E [ahern.steve@abc.net.au](mailto:ahern.steve@abc.net.au)  
W [abc.net.au/sydney](http://abc.net.au/sydney) [[abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)]

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**From:** Antoinette Chiha Lattouf   
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2023 5:23:53 PM  
**To:** Steve Ahern <Ahern.Steve@abc.net.au>; Mark Spurway <Spurway.Mark@abc.net.au>  
**Cc:** Elizabeth Green <Green.Elizabeth@abc.net.au>  
**Subject:** Questions regarding my dismissal

Hello Mark, Steve and Elizabeth,

I have some questions regarding my departure that I would like answered please. I believe I was unfairly dismissed and there will also be reputational damage due to the unfair manner in which I was let go and the very quick leak to the media.

As you are aware, today, at approximately 1.45pm, I was summoned by Steve for a quick chat. Mark and Elizabeth also joined the meeting.

In this short meeting, I was told that I was being let go because of one specific social media post (an Instagram story) which I have attached below. Can you please confirm whether the attached

Instagram story is the social media post which the ABC alleges was in breach of the social media policy? Can you please also:

- specify exactly which section of the ABC's social media policy I allegedly breached by sharing that post; and
- explain as to how this post is said to be in breach of the guidelines.

I note that, on Monday 18th December I received a call from Elizabeth Green at approximately 3.30pm. We had a very honest and respectful discussion during which she told me that Jewish lobbyists were unhappy that I was on air. Elizabeth told me multiple times that she has absolute faith in my "journalistic integrity" and gave me a heads up to be mindful on social media. We talked about the show that day, and I was told the content was excellent, "no issues whatsoever". I responded by saying "I don't think it's fair to expect me to stop posting all together but I will be even more mindful". Elizabeth responded by saying that "I know that you are. You're smart and professional which is why I chose you and trained you to present". I then specifically asked if another "journalist gets killed or a reputable NGO like Amnesty International has information, am I able to share that without any loaded commentary or anything, but just quote an agency" and Elizabeth said "yes that's fine." Elizabeth also repeated in the meeting that, yes, she has told me that sharing straight facts and reputable sources was a "fine" and that she had told other senior management this too.

- Can you please explain how I'm said to have breached the social media guidelines when I was following an express direction given to me about the application of social media? Can you please also explain why any such breach warrants summary dismissal?

Further, at lunchtime today (Wednesday 20th) there was a station meeting where the following two things were expressed:

- I was singled out by Mark, thanked for the work I am doing, told I am "sounding great" and the audience are "responding very well"
- The team was also reminded not to leak internal ABC Radio Sydney information to the media following the [SMH leak](#) as it erodes team trust.

**In light of this can you please:**

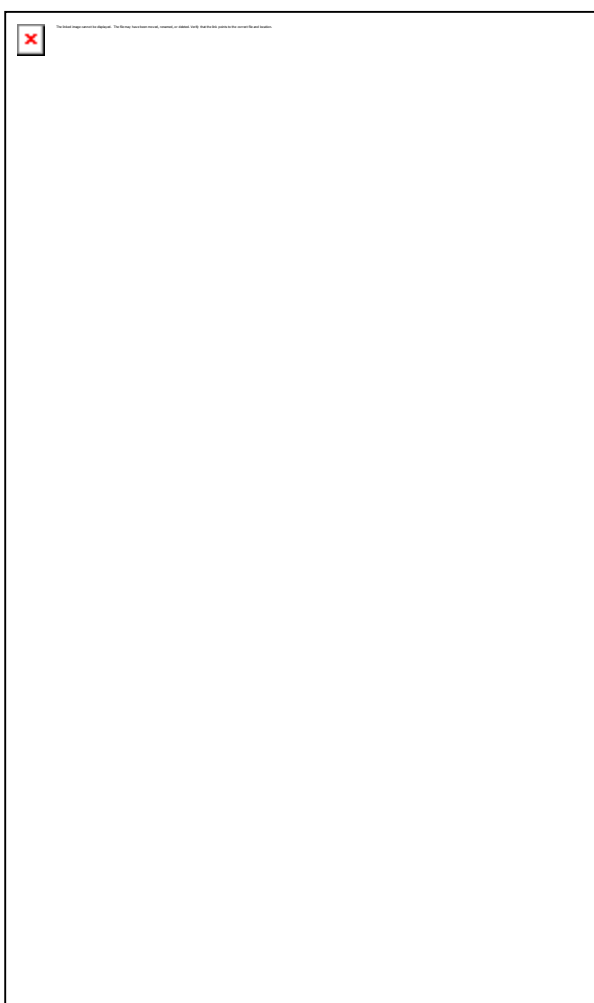
- Explain why I was dismissed less than an hour after being told my work was "great?"
- Can you please shed some light as to how the story got to The Australian so quickly because there was an article published before I even got home. It was less than an hour from when we had our discussion in Mark's office.
- Who made the final decision that my dismissal was warranted?

This has been an incredibly stressful week, since receiving that call on Monday I have had trouble sleeping and worked incredibly hard to produce excellent radio. The manner in which this has unfolded is incredibly distressing.

Given how swiftly this is playing out in the media, I would appreciate a swift reply as I have already been contacted by five media outlets and would like to respond to them by 8pm.

Many thanks,

Antoinette





# HRW reporting starvation as a tool of war



The Israeli government is using  
starvation of civilians as a  
weapon of war in Gaza.

humanrightswatch