

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Broadcasting](#)
Subject: Re: Your complaint about Foreign Correspondent broadcast on the ABC on 10 August 2023 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 24 August 2023 1:03:47 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.gif](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

I have copied the email that I received from ABC below (as I was not able to fit it into the field for registering my complaint with ACMA):

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting the ABC regarding the *Foreign Correspondent* story '[Bollywood: The Politics Behind the Scenes](#)'.

Your complaint has been received by the ABC Ombudsman's Office. The office is separate to and independent of content making areas within the ABC. Our role is to review and, where appropriate, investigate complaints about ABC content concerning the [ABC's editorial standards](#).

Featuring the ABC's overseas correspondents, *Foreign Correspondent* presents reports that delve into political social and cultural issues in more detail and depth than can be provided within a news format. In the lead-up to next year's general election in India, and against the background of Bollywood's massive influence in India's social and cultural life, examining the role of India's film industry in politics and the controversy surrounding Vivek Agnihotri's film 'The Kashmir Files' is a legitimate and newsworthy subject for the program.

You are correct to point out that the program presented viewpoints that were critical of the Modi Government. In this context, the program makers felt it was important to include the perspective of Vivek Agnihotri, who denied that his film was 'pro-Government'. Having said, that, the ABC's editorial standards for impartiality do not require that every perspective receives equal time, nor that every facet of every argument is presented within a single piece of content.

While you have not provided any concrete examples of how the program lacked impartiality, please be assured that ABC news will continue to cover Indian politics on a newsworthy basis and featuring a diversity of perspectives.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to respond to you. Should you be dissatisfied with this response you are able to request a review from the ABC's Ombudsman's Office within two (2) weeks from the date of this response by sending an email to ombudsmansoffice@abc.net.au or by post to Ombudsman's Office, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, ABC Ultimo Centre, GPO Box 9994, Sydney NSW 2001. Alternatively, you may be able to pursue your complaint with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) www.acma.gov.au. ACMA, however does not deal with complaints about ABC digital services. You can find more details about how to request a review [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Investigations Officer, ABC Ombudsman's Office

Thank you for looking into my complaint.

[REDACTED]
Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Broadcasting <Broadcasting@acma.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 11:51:34 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Your complaint about Foreign Correspondent broadcast on the ABC on 10 August 2023 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

ACMA reference: BM-12586

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Your complaint about *Foreign Correspondent* broadcast on the ABC on 10 August 2023

The ACMA received a complaint from you on 23 August 2023, raising compliance issues with the ABC Code of Practice 2023 (the Code).

I understand you are concerned about biased and impartiality during the Foreign Correspondent program title *Bollywood: The Politics Behind The Scenes*. We appreciate that this matter is of concern to you.

I note that in your complaint to us, you indicated that you have received a response from the ABC and that you were unable to add it to your complaint to us.

To help us assess your complaint, could you please send us, via return email, a copy of the response you received from the ABC. Alternatively, you can post the response to us on the following address:

Content Investigations Section

PO Box Q500

Queen Victoria Building

NSW 1230

We will take no further action in assessing your complaint until we hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Content Investigations Section

Australian Communications and Media Authority

E broadcasting@acma.gov.au

W acma.gov.au



The ACMA acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

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