

**From:** [Broadcasting](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Your complaint about Foreign Correspondent broadcast on the ABC on 10 August 2023 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 16 January 2024 1:50:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image006.gif](#)

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ACMA reference: BM-12586

Dear [REDACTED]

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

Thank you for your complaint about the compliance of the program *Foreign Correspondent* with the ABC Code of Practice 2023 (**ABC Code**).

We appreciate that this matter is of concern to you and thank you for your patience while we assessed your complaint.

When we receive a complaint about a broadcast, we weigh up a number of factors to help us decide whether to investigate further. We have carefully assessed your complaint, the broadcaster's response, a copy of the broadcast and the relevant rules in the ABC Code.

Standard 4.1 of the ABC Code states: '[g]ather and present news and information with due impartiality'.

Standard 4.5 of the ABC Code states: '[d]o not unduly favour one perspective over another'.

The principles accompanying the ABC Code state that 'impartiality does not require that every perspective receives equal time, nor that every facet of every argument is presented'. Further, assessing the impartiality due in given circumstances, requires consideration in context of all relevant factors.

The ACMA acknowledges that the program broadcast a number of perspectives that indicated that the Indian Government unduly intervened in the Indian film industry, such as those of Professor Bhasker and actor Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub. However, the ACMA also notes that the program broadcast an interview with Vivek Agnihotri, and comments from Sumeet Nagdev, who provided alternative perspectives that films are successful in Bollywood independent of government influence.

Further, the ACMA notes the program's statement that efforts were made to obtain a comment from Anurag Thakur, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting but the program received no response.

Noting that under the ABC Code, impartiality 'does not require that every perspective receives equal time, nor that every facet of every argument is presented', the program appeared to provide an adequate range of perspectives so that the broadcast met the requirements of the impartiality provisions of the ABC Code.

We acknowledge your preference for the program to have included additional contextual

information, such as, information regarding the treatment of non-Muslims in Pakistan. However, this information did not appear necessary in order for the broadcast to meet the requirements of the ABC Code, noting the focus of the program was to consider whether there has been undue government influence in the Indian Film industry.

Due to the reasoning above, the ACMA will not be taking any further action regarding this matter.

The ACMA has logged your complaint in our database to help us identify potential recurring or systemic issues with legislation, codes of practice and standards.

You can find out more about our approach to broadcast investigations on the [ACMA website](#).

If you have concerns about the way we have handled this matter, you can contact the [Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman](#).

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Yours sincerely,



**Content Investigations Section**

**Australian Communications and Media Authority**

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