

## Notice of Sanction – Star China Media Limited

<b>Type of case</b>	Broadcast Standards
<b>Outcome</b>	Financial penalty of £125,000
<b>Service</b>	CGTN
<b>Date &amp; time</b>	<i>The World Today</i> , 11 August 2019, 17:00 <i>The World Today</i> , 26 August 2019, 08:00 <i>The World Today</i> , 31 August 2019, 07:00 <i>The World Today</i> , 2 September 2019, 16:00 <i>China 24</i> , 21 November 2019, 12:15
<b>Category</b>	Due Impartiality
<b>Summary</b>	Ofcom imposed a sanction for serious breaches of Rules 5.1, 5.11 and 5.12 of the Broadcasting Code. Financial penalty of £125,000.

The licence for the provision of the CGTN service was held by Star China Media Limited (“SCML” or “the Licensee”) until 4 February 2021 when the Licence was revoked<sup>1</sup>. In the UK, the channel was broadcast on satellite.

The sanction related to the broadcast of five programmes:

- *The World Today*, 11 August 2019, 17:00
- *The World Today*, 26 August 2019, 08:00
- *The World Today*, 31 August 2019, 07:00
- *The World Today*, 2 September 2019, 16:00
- *China 24*, 21 November 2019, 12:15

Each programme was concerned with the protests which were ongoing in Hong Kong during this period. These protests were initially in response to the Hong Kong Government’s Extradition Law

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<sup>1</sup> See Ofcom’s [Notice of Revocation](#).

Amendment Bill that would have allowed criminal suspects in Hong Kong to be sent to mainland China for trial.

In the decisions published on 26 May 2020 in [Issue 403](#) of the Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin, Ofcom found that each of the five programmes had failed to maintain due impartiality and had breached Rules 5.1, 5.11 and 5.12 of the Code:

Rule 5.1: “News, in whatever form, must be reported with due accuracy and presented with due impartiality”;

Rule 5.11: “Due impartiality must be preserved on matters of major political and industrial controversy and major matters relating to current public policy by the person providing a service...in each programme or in clearly linked and timely programmes”; and

Rule 5.12: “In dealing with matters of major political and industrial controversy and major matters relating to current public policy an appropriately wide range of significant views must be included and given due weight in each programme or in clearly linked and timely programmes. Views and facts must not be misrepresented”.

In accordance with Ofcom’s [penalty guidelines](#), Ofcom decided that it was appropriate and proportionate in the circumstances to impose a financial penalty of £125,000 on the Licensee in respect of these serious Code breaches (payable to HM Paymaster General).

The [full sanction decision](#) was published on 8 March 2021.