

# Ofcom Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin

Issue 446  
7 March 2022

## Notice of Sanction – Rinse FM Ltd

<b>Type of case</b>	Broadcast Standards
<b>Outcome</b>	Direction to broadcast a statement of our findings in this case on a date and in a form to be determined by Ofcom
<b>Service</b>	Rinse FM
<b>Date &amp; time</b>	12 July 2020, 10:50
<b>Category</b>	Hate speech Abusive treatment Generally accepted standards
<b>Summary</b>	During a music programme, a track was played which included lyrics amounting to antisemitic hate speech and abusive and derogatory treatment of Jewish people which was not sufficiently justified by the context. The content was therefore also potentially highly offensive. Ofcom has imposed a sanction on the broadcaster for breaches of Rules 3.2, 3.3 and 2.3 of the Broadcasting Code: requiring it to broadcast a statement of Ofcom’s findings, on a date and in a form to be determined by Ofcom.

Rinse FM is an urban music community radio station serving the Inner London area. The Ofcom licence for this station is held by Rinse FM Ltd (“Rinse FM” or “the Licensee”).

This sanction related to a music programme broadcast by Rinse FM presented by a regular DJ featuring a playlist of tracks by various Black artists. During the programme, the track “*Better in Tune with the Infinite*” by hip hop artist Jay Electronica was played.

In our decision published on 19 July 2021 in [Issue 431 of the Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin](#), Ofcom considered that the lyrics of the track were likely to have been understood by UK listeners as suggesting that Jewish people are evil or worship the Devil, and characterised Jewish people and Judaism in a negative and stereotypical light.

Ofcom found that the track contained antisemitic hate speech, and abusive and derogatory treatment of Jewish people, which was not sufficiently justified by the context, and was therefore also potentially highly offensive. We recorded breaches of Rules 3.2, 3.3 and 2.3 of the Broadcasting Code:

Rule 3.2: “Material which contains hate speech must not be included in television and radio programmes [...] except where it is justified by the context.”

Rule 3.3: “Material which contains abusive or derogatory treatment of individuals, groups, religions or communities, must not be included in television and radio services [...] except where it is justified by the context.”

Rule 2.3: “In applying generally accepted standards broadcasters must ensure that material which may cause offence is justified by the context... Such material may include, but is not limited to, [...] offensive language, [...] discriminatory treatment or language (for example on the grounds of [...] race, religion or belief [...]). Appropriate information should also be broadcast where it would assist in avoiding or minimising offence.”

Ofcom considered these breaches were serious and warranted the imposition of a statutory sanction.

In accordance with our powers under section 109 of the Broadcasting Act 1990 and section 62(10) of the Broadcasting Act 1996, Ofcom has directed Rinse FM Ltd to broadcast a statement of Ofcom’s findings on a date and in a form to be determined by Ofcom.

The [full sanction decision](#) was published on 7 March 2022.