

17 June 2013

Complaint about *The Graham Norton Show* promo not upheld

A promo for *The Graham Norton Show* Christmas special that included a photograph of a couple dressed as Mary and Joseph holding a dog in swaddling clothes did not breach broadcasting standards, the BSA has found.

In the week leading up to Christmas last year, TV3 broadcast the promo at 7.45pm during *The X Factor USA*.

The complainant alleged that the depiction of Jesus as a dog was highly offensive and denigrated Christians, in breach of the good taste and decency and discrimination and denigration standards.

When declining to uphold the good taste and decency complaint, the BSA said it took into account the context of the broadcast including that it was on air during a PGR rated programme, the audience expectations of *The Graham Norton Show* and that it was intended to be humorous.

The BSA acknowledged that some Christians would find the image of a dog dressed as Jesus offensive, but said it was a light-hearted attempt at humour in keeping with the general tenor of the programme.

The BSA was also satisfied that the content did not encourage the denigration of, or discrimination against Christians as a section of the community. It rejected the complainant's argument that Western media were 'cautious when stating things regarding Islam and the prophet Mohammed' but applied an 'anything goes' attitude when it came to offending Christian beliefs, noting that the BSA had recently declined to uphold a complaint that a radio broadcast allegedly denigrated and discriminated against Muslims.

The full report is available at www.bsa.govt.nz

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