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Four complaints dismissed by the BSA as frivolous and trivial

The Broadcasting Standards Authority has declined to determine four complaints from Donald McDonald on the basis that they are frivolous and trivial.

Mr McDonald complained that footage on TVNZ News of a BBC reporter walking backwards while being filmed was dangerous behaviour. In the second complaint a TVNZ7 item referred to a fire being ‘an area of around 15,000 rugby fields’. Mr McDonald alleged that breached accuracy standards because a football field is not a proper measure of area.

The third complaint was an item on TVNZ7 about an electric car which the manufacturer said could reach a speed of 130 miles per hour. Mr McDonald’s complaint was that this breached the law and order standard as it glamorized speeding.

The fourth complaint, on *Close Up*, was about an animal rights protest and the size of hen cages. Mr McDonald complained that the item breached standards of accuracy because the measurements of the cage were ‘muddled’ and not adequately explained.

In declining to determine these complaints, the BSA said that the rationale behind its statutory power to do so was that the time and resources of the Authority, which are sustained by the people of New Zealand, should not be wasted in having to deal with matters which objectively have no importance.

“We are conscious that there is an economic cost in dealing with complaints and we do not wish to see resources wasted on complaints that have no foundation whatsoever.”

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

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