

Dr David Golding
Devonshire Building
Newcastle University
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 7RU

3 September 2015

Dear Dr Golding

Reference CAS-3449939-2LKXXR

Thanks for contacting us about What's the Point of...The Met Office? broadcast on 5 August.

In What's the Point of ...?, Daily Mail columnist Quentin Letts questions the continued relevance of British traditions and institutions, with an irreverent approach offering alternatives to well-established views. There is a long tradition on Radio 4 of columnists having licence to explore controversial subjects from a personal viewpoint and the light hearted tone of this series allows Quentin Letts to question even the most admired of organisations. Nevertheless we accept that in this episode about the Met Office, while there are legitimate questions to be raised about the accuracy of long-term predictions over the past 10-15 years and funding, the programme should have been more clear about where the balance of the argument currently lies on climate change and, in particular, would have benefitted from clarifying that the Met Office's underlying views are in line with the scientific consensus.

The omission on these points is regrettable. Climate change is a recurrent theme on Radio 4 programmes and more mainstream views have been, and will continue to be, properly reflected in our output - for example, the following day's BBC Inside Science included an interview referring to how the release of carbon dioxide may have had a significant effect on the atmosphere and next week's Fry's English Delight on weather also reflects the scientific consensus.

Thank you for taking the time to bring this matter to our attention and giving us the opportunity to review it.

Kind regards

Nicola Stewart
BBC Complaints
www.bbc.co.uk/complaints