



## NHK 詳細分析

2026-05-04\_radio\_news\_1500

Broadcast: 2026-05-04 | Analyzed: 2026-05-13 14:56

Version 2.8-detail | Universal 2.8-detail | Konverter 3.4 (2026-05-20) | Standard: 放送法 第4条

### OVERALL SCORE

**3.0/10**

*Slight imbalance*

0 = balanced, 10 = strongly biased/manipulative

## POLITICAL SPECTRUM

Classification based on Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES) 2024

The Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES 2024) is an academic survey of 609 political scientists in 31 countries. Each party is rated on a scale from 0 (far left) to 10 (far right).

Party	JCP	CDP	DPP	Komeito	LDP	JIP
CHES	1.50	3.50	4.80	5.20	7.00	7.80
Spectrum	<i>Left</i>	<i>Left</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>Right</i>	<i>Right</i>

The overall tendency is presented on a 0–10 scale (0 = strongly left-favoring, 5 = balanced, 10 = strongly right-favoring). The calculation is based on the difference in average favoritism of left vs. right parties (grouping per CHES 2024).

### TENDENCY (L – R)

**5.5 / 10**

*Favours right-wing (minor)*

0 1 2 3 4 **5** 6 7 8 9 10

← Left

Right →

Source: Chapel Hill Expert Survey 2024 — [chesdata.eu](https://chesdata.eu) | [Jolly et al., Electoral Studies, 2022](#) | Thresholds: [Pew Research Center](#)

This section provides political context and does not contribute to the overall score.



## POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

The current government is a coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Komeito. In the House of Representatives election on 27 October 2024, the LDP won 191 seats (a significant reduction) and Komeito won 24 seats, falling below an overall majority. The main opposition parties are the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDP, 148 seats), Nippon Ishin no Kai (Ishin, 38 seats), the Democratic Party for the People (DPP, 28 seats), Reiwa Shinsengumi (9 seats), and the Japanese Communist Party (JCP, 8 seats).

Party	Left-Right Score (0-10)	Seats (House of Representatives)	Government/Opposition	Key Policies
Japanese Communist Party (JCP)	1.5	8	Opposition	Uphold Article 9, immediate nuclear-zero, anti-rearmament
Social Democratic Party (SDP)	2.5	1	Opposition	Pacifism, nuclear phase-out, welfare priority
Reiwa Shinsengumi	2.5	9	Opposition	Abolish consumption tax, MMT, anti-rearmament
Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP)	3.5	148	Opposition	Against constitutional revision, distribution-focused, separate surnames for married couples
Komeito	5.0	24	Coalition Government	Peace diplomacy, social security, LDP restraint
Democratic Party for the People (DPP)	5.5	28	Centre	Consumption tax 5%, pragmatic use of nuclear power
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)	7.0	191	Government	Constitutional revision, increased defence spending, nuclear restart
Nippon Ishin no Kai (Ishin)	7.0	38	Opposition	Deregulation, administrative reform, pro-nuclear
NHK Party	7.5	1	Opposition	Abolish NHK licence fee, right-wing populism
Sanseito	9.0	3	Opposition	Ultra-nationalism, right-wing populism

Pew threshold: Below 4.5 = left-wing, 4.5-5.5 = centrist, above 5.5 = right-wing

The main fault lines in Japanese politics are: ① whether to revise the Constitution (especially Article 9); ② increased defence spending and the scope of exclusively defensive defence posture; ③ nuclear power plant restarts versus a nuclear phase-out; and ④ economic policy (continuing Abenomics versus a distribution-focused approach). On exchange rate and monetary policy, the government's and the Bank of Japan's stance on intervening to correct yen weakness is drawing attention from both the governing and opposition parties; in particular, suspicions of market intervention during the 2024 Golden Week holiday became a political flashpoint. Debate over the independence and transparency of the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Japan is also ongoing.



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NHK is required under Broadcasting Act Article 4 to maintain political fairness, accuracy in reporting, and the presentation of diverse viewpoints. Because the 12 members of the Board of Governors are appointed by the Prime Minister (with the consent of the Diet), criticism that NHK has been "sympathetic to the government" has been raised continuously by academics and civil society since the Abe administration. In RSF's Press Freedom Index, Japan ranked 70th in 2024 (Norway 1st, Germany 10th), and the structural bias in information access caused by the kisha-club (press club) system has also been pointed out.



## CHAPTER 1 — PARTY-POLITICAL BIAS

### Scores by Party

Party	Score (-5 to +5)	Broadcast Content vs. Party Platform
LDP	+1	00:04:19–00:04:47 "Minister Katayama stated, 'Our stance is very clear.'" — Party platform: economic growth, fiscal consolidation, exchange rate stability — Reported as the government taking proactive action; broadly accurate but without critical scrutiny.
CDP	0	No mention — Party platform: distribution focus, transparency — The opposition's position relevant to this broadcast's theme is completely omitted, but there is no active distortion.
Komeito	0	No mention — As a coalition partner, involved in Ministry of Finance policy, but no specific mention.
Ishin	0	No mention — No mention relevant to this broadcast's theme.
JCP	0	No mention — No mention relevant to this broadcast's theme.
DPP	0	No mention — Holds its own position on consumption tax and exchange rate policy but no mention.

### Party Bias Summary

- Most accurately depicted: LDP (Score +1) — Government policy is reported without critical scrutiny, but there is no active distortion.
- Strongest distortion: CDP (Score 0) — There is no active distortion, but the opposition's position relevant to the topic is completely omitted.
- Average deviation (from 0): 0.2
- Summary: This broadcast is a short news bulletin, and no active party-political distortion is confirmed. However, the fact that in the politically sensitive matter of suspected currency market intervention only the government-side (LDP) statements are reported and the opposition's position is completely omitted can be noted as a problem from the standpoint of political fairness under Broadcasting Act Article 4.



## CHAPTER 2 — PROGRAMME INFORMATION AND TOPIC FRAMEWORK

### Broadcast Data

- Title: 3 O'Clock NHK News
- Date (estimated from filename): May 2024 (Golden Week holiday broadcast)
- Estimated broadcast duration: Approx. 4 minutes 45 seconds (00:00:01–00:04:47)
- Announcer/Reporter: Taniguchi (announcer)
- Interviewees: Finance Minister Katayama (responding to press corps in Uzbekistan, where he was visiting), Vice Finance Minister for International Affairs Mimura (mentioned as having spoken the previous weekend), market participants (anonymous)

Actors	Position	Party/Affiliation	Political Spectrum
Taniguchi (Announcer)	NHK Announcer	NHK (public broadcaster)	Neutral (institutional)
Finance Minister Katayama	Minister of Finance	LDP (Liberal Democratic Party)	Right-wing (7.0)
Vice Finance Minister Mimura	Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs	Ministry of Finance (bureaucracy)	Government side
Anonymous market participant	Foreign exchange market participant	Unknown (private financial institution)	Unknown

### Main Themes

This broadcast was an approximately 5-minute news bulletin reporting on: ① strong wind damage in the Tohoku and Kanto regions caused by a developed low-pressure system, along with meteorological warnings; ② the first summer-like day of the year in the Kanto and Koshin regions; ③ the start of the rainy season in Okinawa; and ④ the rapid appreciation of the yen in the foreign exchange market and suspicions of market intervention by the government and the Bank of Japan.

### Ideological Context

During the 2024 Golden Week holiday, the yen had been moving in the range of approximately 157–160 yen to the dollar — its weakest level in roughly 34 years — and whether the government and the Bank of Japan had intervened in the exchange market was the biggest concern for both markets and politicians. The Ministry of Finance has a practice of not publicly disclosing whether it has intervened, and this lack of transparency has drawn criticism. Meanwhile, the steep yen depreciation has hit household finances directly through rising import prices, and criticism from the opposition parties and civil society over the slowness of the government's response had been growing. While this broadcast was a short news programme on a public holiday, it contained politically sensitive information in the form of the suspected currency market intervention.

### Perspectives Required for Balanced Broadcasting (Independent List Based on World Knowledge)

- \* Legal basis for currency intervention and the scope of the Ministry of Finance's authority
- \* Problems with the practice of not disclosing whether intervention has taken place (transparency, democratic accountability)
- \* Concrete impact of yen weakness on household finances, small and medium-sized enterprises, and importers
- \* Positive effects of yen weakness on export companies and the tourism industry
- \* The relationship between the Bank of Japan's monetary policy (interest rate decisions) and the exchange rate
- \* Criticism of the government's response from opposition parties and civil society



- \* The risk of international criticism of currency manipulation (e.g. US Treasury currency reports)
- \* Economic views on the effectiveness and limits of market intervention
- \* Regional details of meteorological information (Hokkaido, Okinawa, etc.)
- \* Heat-stroke risk and public health advisories

### Confirmation of How Each Perspective Was Handled

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[A] Legal basis for currency intervention and the scope of the Ministry of Finance's authority

Timestamp: 00:02:35–00:04:47

Quotation: "There are also views that the government and the Bank of Japan may have again intervened in the market."

Assessment: No mention of the legal basis for intervention (the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act). Omitted

[B] Problems with the practice of not disclosing whether intervention has taken place

Timestamp: 00:04:19–00:04:21

Quotation: "He stated 'no comment.'"

Assessment: The fact of "no comment" was conveyed, but there was no mention of the democratic problems with this practice. Implied only

[C] Impact of yen weakness on household finances, small and medium-sized enterprises, and importers

Timestamp: Not applicable

Assessment: Only the fact of yen appreciation was reported. No mention of the damage that continued yen weakness had inflicted on household finances. Omitted

[D] Positive effects of yen weakness on export companies and the tourism industry

Timestamp: Not applicable

Assessment: No explanation of the multi-faceted economic impact. Omitted

[E] The relationship between the Bank of Japan's monetary policy and the exchange rate

Timestamp: Not applicable

Assessment: No mention of the Bank of Japan's interest rate decisions or monetary policy. Omitted

[F] Criticism of the government's response from opposition parties and civil society

Timestamp: Not applicable

Assessment: No comments from opposition parties or public voices whatsoever. Omitted

[G] The risk of international criticism of currency manipulation

Timestamp: Not applicable

Assessment: No international perspective such as that of the US Treasury. Omitted

[H] Economic views on the effectiveness and limits of market intervention

Timestamp: 00:04:07–00:04:19

Quotation: "It cannot be definitively concluded that this price movement was an intervention, but they said that among investors a sense of wariness is growing that one cannot let one's guard down even during the holiday period."

Assessment: Only the view of market participants. No independent economist's perspective. Implied only

[I] Regional details of meteorological information

Timestamp: 00:00:05–00:02:31

Quotation: "Winds are strengthening in the Tohoku and Kanto regions." "It was announced that Okinawa appears to have entered the rainy season."

Assessment: Main regions covered. Handled

[J] Heat-stroke risk and public health advisories



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Timestamp: 00:01:21–00:01:59

Quotation: "30.5 degrees in Nerima Ward, Tokyo." "They are urging caution regarding severe gusts including lightning and tornadoes, as well as temperatures."

Assessment: Temperature information was conveyed but no explicit mention of heat stroke. Implied only



## CHAPTER 3 — 15 Criteria: DETAILED ANALYSIS

### Hard Facts — 9 techniques that are countable and scientifically verifiable

#### 1. Expert Selection

5/10

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

#### Expert 1: Finance Minister Katayama (LDP)

Timestamp 00:04:19–00:04:47

Statements: "He stated 'no comment.'" "He stated, 'Our stance is very clear.'" "He stated, 'There has been investment-motivated movement of late; that is clear if you watch.'"

Position: A serving Finance Minister belonging to the LDP. He is the decision-maker regarding currency intervention and has a direct stake in the question of whether intervention took place.

Missing counterarguments: The voices of opposition MPs, independent economists, consumer organisations, etc. are completely absent.

#### Source Deep-Check:

**(a) Funding:** The Ministry of Finance is a national institution, operated through tax revenues and government bonds. Currency intervention is carried out from the Foreign Exchange Fund Special Account.

Conflict of interest: On the question of whether intervention took place and whether it was effective, the Ministry of Finance is in a position of justifying its own policy decisions.

**(b) Mandate:** The Finance Minister's role is to execute exchange rate policy, which is structurally incompatible with neutral evaluation of that policy.

D1 Conflict of interest: -2 — A direct stakeholder on the question of whether intervention took place and whether it was effective

D2 Personal risk: -1 — Speaking from a political position; personal risk is low

D3 Professional competence: +1 — An expert in financial administration but not an independent economic analyst

D4 Consistency of statements: 0 — Insufficient comparative data with past statements

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: 0 — "No comment," "very clear," etc. — no data

D6 Source level: +2 — Primary source (direct participant)

**TOTAL: 0 → Source Traffic Light: Yellow (-4 to +4)**

**(c) PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE:** The Finance Minister's statements represent the government's official position, and it is inappropriate to treat them as neutral expert opinion. While the broadcast adopts the format of factual reporting by saying "the minister stated," the absence of critical scrutiny is problematic.

#### Expert 2: Anonymous market participant

Timestamp 00:02:48–00:02:55, 00:04:07–00:04:19

Statements: "Views have emerged that the government and the Bank of Japan may have again intervened in the market." "It cannot be definitively concluded that this price movement was an intervention, but they said that among investors a sense of wariness is growing that one cannot let one's guard down even during the holiday period."

Position: An anonymous market participant. Affiliation and interests unknown.



Source Deep-Check:

**(a) Funding:** Unknown (assumed to be a private financial institution). As a market participant, they may have a direct economic stake in whether intervention has taken place.

**(b) Mandate:** Observations as a market participant are useful, but cannot be said to represent a neutral stance for policy evaluation.

D1 Conflict of interest: -1 — As a market participant, may have an economic stake in whether intervention has taken place

D2 Personal risk: 0 — Cannot be assessed due to anonymity

D3 Professional competence: +1 — Has practical market knowledge but is not an independent analyst

D4 Consistency of statements: 0 — Cannot be assessed (anonymous)

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: +1 — Comparatively cautious, qualifying with "cannot be definitively concluded"

D6 Source level: 0 — Secondary source (observer)

**TOTAL: +1 → Source Traffic Light: Yellow (-4 to +4)**

**(c) PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE:** By using an anonymous market participant as the sole private-sector expert, the perspectives of independent economists, opposition parties, and consumers are excluded.

Missing Expert Groups:

- Independent macroeconomists (affiliated with universities or think tanks)
- Criticism of exchange rate policy from opposition MPs (CDP, DPP, etc.)
- Voices from the perspective of consumers and importers

Source Credibility Overview:

Source	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	Total	Signal
Finance Minister Katayama (LDP)	-2	-1	+1	0	0	+2	0	Yellow
Anonymous market participant	-1	0	+1	0	+1	0	+1	Yellow

Summary (matrix results):

- Finance Minister Katayama: Source Traffic Light Yellow (total 0) — Useful as a statement from a direct participant but not a neutral expert
- Anonymous market participant: Source Traffic Light Yellow (total +1) — Useful as market observation but independence is unknown



## 2. Source Selection

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Claims without primary source = penalty points (rumour check)

### Source 1: Ministry of Finance (Finance Minister Katayama, Vice Finance Minister Mimura)

**Timestamp** 00:03:43–00:04:47

Statements: "Vice Finance Minister for International Affairs Mimura had, last weekend, made a statement suggesting that market intervention could occur even during Japan's Golden Week holiday." "Finance Minister Katayama stated 'no comment.'"

**(a) Funding and operating body:** The Ministry of Finance is a national institution. It manages the Foreign Exchange Fund Special Account and holds the authority to decide and implement currency interventions.

**(b) Structural conflict of interest:** On the question of whether intervention took place and whether it was effective, the Ministry of Finance is in a position of justifying its own policy decisions. On the transparency problem regarding intervention, the Ministry of Finance is also in a position of restricting information disclosure.

**(c) Missing opposing sources:** The critical views of opposition MPs, independent economists, consumer organisations, and international financial institutions are completely absent.

### Source 2: Anonymous market participant

**Timestamp** 00:02:48–00:02:55, 00:04:07–00:04:19

**Statement** "Views have emerged that the government and the Bank of Japan may have again intervened in the market."

**(a) Funding:** Unknown (assumed to be a private financial institution).

**(b) Structural conflict of interest:** As a foreign exchange market participant, may have an economic stake in whether intervention has taken place.

**(c) Missing opposing sources:** An independent academic perspective is absent.

Missing opposing sources: Independent economists affiliated with universities or think tanks.

*Summary: In the exchange rate reporting, only two sources are used — a government institution (the Ministry of Finance) and an anonymous market participant — and independent experts and sources with a critical stance are completely absent. The diversity of sources is markedly insufficient from the standpoint of the presentation of diverse viewpoints required by Broadcasting Act Article 4.*



3. Time Allocation									3/10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Estimated speaking time:

- Meteorological information (neutral public information): Approx. 2 minutes (approx. 42%)
- Exchange rate / Finance Minister's statements (government side): Approx. 2 minutes 10 seconds (approx. 46%)
- Market participant (anonymous, private sector): Approx. 20 seconds (approx. 7%)
- Opposition parties / critical perspectives: 0 seconds (0%)
- Independent experts: 0 seconds (0%)

*Summary: While meteorological information as neutral public information is unproblematic, in the exchange rate reporting, the government side's statements (Finance Minister, Vice Finance Minister) occupy the overwhelming majority of the time, and zero time is allocated to critical or independent perspectives. An imbalance is recognised from the standpoint of the presentation of diverse viewpoints required by Broadcasting Act Article 4.*



#### 4. SELECTIVE OMISSION

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##### Omission 1:

###### Context

The damage that continued yen weakness has inflicted on household finances and small and medium-sized enterprises

Relevant timestamp: 00:02:35–00:04:47 (exchange rate reporting as a whole)

###### Effect

By reporting only the yen's appreciation, the context of the historically weak yen level (in the 157-yen range) that preceded it, and the impact on household finances, fade from viewers' awareness, creating the impression that the government's intervention is "solving the problem."

##### Omission 2:

###### Context

Criticism of the government's exchange rate policy from opposition parties and civil society

Relevant timestamp: 00:04:07–00:04:47 (reporting of the Finance Minister's statements)

###### Effect

Because only the government's statements are reported, a critical perspective on the policy is completely absent, and the requirement of Broadcasting Act Article 4 for the presentation of diverse viewpoints is not met.

##### Omission 3:

###### Context

The transparency problem regarding currency intervention (the democratic problem with the "no comment" practice)

Relevant timestamp: 00:04:19–00:04:21

Quotation: "He stated 'no comment.'"

###### Effect

While the fact of "no comment" was conveyed, there is no mention of the problematic nature of not explaining to the public whether public funds were used for market intervention, and the government's opaque conduct is received as a matter of course.

*Summary: In the reporting on currency market intervention, only the government side's statements and posture are reported, and three important perspectives — the economic impact, criticism of the policy, and the transparency problem — are systematically omitted. Even allowing for the constraint of a short news programme, the handling of this politically sensitive information is insufficiently balanced.*

#### Missing Voices

- Opposition MPs (CDP, DPP, etc.): Could have provided critical perspectives on the government's exchange rate policy and the transparency of intervention
- Independent economists: Could have provided neutral analysis of the effectiveness, limits, and long-term impact of market intervention
- Importers and representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises: Could have testified to the concrete damage that continued yen weakness has caused to their businesses



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- Representatives of consumer organisations: Could have provided concrete examples of the impact on household finances of rising import prices
- Bank of Japan officials (or former officials): Could have given specialist explanations of the relationship between monetary policy and the exchange rate
- International finance experts: Could have explained how Japan's intervention is assessed internationally
- Government agencies other than the Ministry of Finance (e.g. Cabinet Office): Could have provided context for overall economic policy
- Citizens (ordinary members of the public): Could have conveyed lived experience of yen weakness and rising prices



## 5. Numerical Manipulation

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Complete figures include: absolute value, proportion (%) and trend

### Finding 1:

**Timestamp** 00:02:41–00:03:17

Figures: "The yen rate rose at one point to the upper 155 yen range against the dollar." "It had been moving in the 157-yen range against the dollar." "In a sharp price movement of only about 10 minutes, the yen strengthened by 1 yen in that period."

#### Missing context

A comparison with the yen's exchange rate at the start of 2024 (approximately 140–145 yen) is absent, as is the historical context of the weakest level in 34 years and estimates of the impact on household finances.

#### Effect

By reporting a movement of about 2 yen from the 157-yen range to the 155-yen range as a "rapid yen appreciation," the fact that the yen remains at a historically weak level fades from viewers' awareness.

### Finding 2:

**Timestamp** 00:00:21–00:01:06

Figures: "28.5 metres in Chiba City just after 6 a.m." "26.9 metres in Gotemba City, Shizuoka Prefecture just after 5 a.m." "24.7 metres in Yokohama City just after 4:30 a.m." "20 metres on the Pacific side of Tohoku, 18 metres on the Sea of Japan side." "The maximum instantaneous wind speed is forecast to be metres both on land and at sea."

#### Missing context

The forecast value for maximum instantaneous wind speed is given only as "metres" with the numerical figure missing (possibly due to incompleteness of the transcription).

#### Effect

Because the numerical figure is missing in an important meteorological warning, viewers may be unable to judge the appropriate level of caution.

*Summary: The historical context is absent from the reporting of exchange rate figures, and there is a risk that the severity of yen weakness will be understated. Furthermore, the forecast value for maximum instantaneous wind speed is missing in the meteorological information (possibly a transcription issue).*



## 6. Guilt by Association

0/10

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### Finding 1:

**Timestamp** 00:04:35–00:04:40

Quotation: "He stated, 'There has been investment-motivated movement of late; that is clear if you watch.'"

Technique: As part of the Finance Minister's statement, "investment-motivated movement" (assumed to refer to speculative trading) is mentioned negatively, but the technique of associating this with specific individuals or groups is not used.

### Effect

There is a minor negative connotation, but it does not meet the definition of a guilt-by-association technique.

*Summary: In this broadcast, no technique was confirmed of discrediting specific individuals or groups by associating them with negative groups. Score 0.*



## 7. Timing

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### Finding 1:

Position: 00:04:19–00:04:47 (closing)

Content: "Finance Minister Katayama stated, 'Our stance is very clear.'" "He stated, 'There has been investment-motivated movement of late; that is clear if you watch.'"

Timing effect: By closing the broadcast with the Finance Minister's strong, assertive words — "very clear" and "clear if you watch" — the impression of a proactive and resolute government response is likely to remain in viewers' memories (recency effect).

*Summary: The structure of closing the broadcast with a strong expression of the government's posture has the potential to leave viewers with a positive impression of the government's response. However, the structural constraints of a short news programme's composition should also be taken into account, and the evidence is insufficient to conclude that this was intentional manipulation.*



## 8. Selective Indignation

0/10

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Outrage = bias. Selective outrage amplifies the finding. Score = outrage level (0–5) + selectivity (0–5)

*Methodological principle (v2.2): Before evaluation, record the event (trigger) that specifically prompted the reaction. A reaction can only be assessed as selective if a similar trigger in the case of another position did not produce a similar reaction.*

### Finding:

**Timestamp** 00:00:01–00:04:47

Triggering event: This broadcast is in a format of one-way news reading by an announcer; no expressions indicating an emotional reaction or indignation are confirmed.

Reaction: None.

### Comparison

As this is not a format in which multiple positions are contrasted, the conditions for assessing selective indignation do not exist.

Asymmetry: Cannot be confirmed

*Summary: No technique of selective indignation was confirmed in this broadcast. The announcer's reading tone is uniform throughout, and no emotional emphasis directed at a particular position is recognisable. Score 0.*



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<b>9. COMPLETENESS</b>									<b>6/10</b>	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Share of covered perspectives

Inverted: original value measures coverage (higher = better). Shown as deviation (higher = larger gaps).



## Soft Facts — 6 qualitative techniques

### 10. Framing

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#### Finding 1:

**Timestamp** 00:02:35–00:02:48

Quotation: "In today's foreign exchange market, there was a period in the afternoon when the yen strengthened rapidly, and the yen rate rose at one point to the upper 155 yen range against the dollar."

Technique: The yen's appreciation is reported using the neutral, technical term "strengthened," while the contextual backdrop of ongoing yen weakness (in the 157-yen range) is pushed back.

Problem: Viewers are likely to receive the impression that "yen appreciation = a good thing," but the context that this was only a recovery of about 2 yen from the historically weak level of 157 yen is absent at the point of first mention.

#### Finding 2:

**Timestamp** 00:04:19–00:04:47

Quotation: "Finance Minister Katayama stated, 'Our stance is very clear.'" "He stated, 'There has been speculative movement of late; that is clear if you watch.'"

Technique: The Finance Minister's statements are reported without critical scrutiny, and the government's "resolute measures" posture is framed positively.

Problem: Critical perspectives on the government's exchange rate policy (doubts about the effectiveness of intervention, the lack of transparency, etc.) are excluded from the framing, creating the impression of the government taking proactive and competent action.

#### Finding 3:

**Timestamp** 00:03:43–00:03:57

Quotation: "Market participants said that Vice Finance Minister for International Affairs Mimura had, last weekend, made a statement suggesting that market intervention could occur even during Japan's Golden Week holiday."

Technique: Vice Finance Minister Mimura's prior statement hinting at intervention is introduced indirectly through the words of "market participants," framing the government's intention to intervene as something already established.

Problem: There is no mention of the problematic nature of the government itself hinting in advance at intervention (its impact on markets, transparency), and the government's action is framed as something natural and unremarkable.

*Summary: The exchange rate reporting as a whole is structured around the frame that "the government is responding appropriately," and a critical, multi-faceted perspective on government policy is absent. However, given the constraint of a short news programme, the score is set at a moderate level.*



## 11. Word Choice and Terminology

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### Finding 1:

#### Timestamp

00:04:22–00:04:32

Quotation: "When asked whether there would be no change in the stance of taking resolute measures going forward, Minister Katayama stated, 'Our stance is very clear.'"

Technique: The expression "resolute measures," which conveys strong determination, is used in the reporter's question, and the structure is one in which the minister affirms it.

Problem: A neutral alternative phrasing would be something like "whether the policy on responding to the foreign exchange market has changed." By incorporating a value-laden expression such as "resolute" into the question, the government's stance is framed positively.

### Finding 2:

#### Timestamp

00:04:35–00:04:40

Quotation: "He stated, 'There has been investment-motivated movement of late; that is clear if you watch.'"

Technique: The ambiguous expression "investment-motivated movement" is used to refer to speculative trading, but "speculative" and "investment-motivated" carry different meanings.

Problem: By expressing "speculative" (a translation of the word "speculative") as "investment-motivated," market participants' behaviour is depicted negatively while the accuracy of the expression remains ambiguous.

*Summary: Overall, word choices are relatively neutral, but minor problems are noted in the use of the expression "resolute measures" and the ambiguous phrase "investment-motivated movement."*



## 12. Presenter Conduct

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*Methodological principle (v2.2): Before evaluation, record the event (trigger) that specifically prompted the intervention. An intervention can only be assessed as asymmetric if a similar trigger in the case of another guest did not produce a similar intervention.*

### Finding 1:

**Timestamp** 00:00:01–00:04:47

Triggering event: This broadcast is in a format of one-way news reading by an announcer; no studio guests or live interview formats exist.

Quotation (announcer): "This is the 3 O'Clock NHK News." (00:00:01)

### Comparison

As there are no multiple guests, there is no comparator by which to assess asymmetry in presenter conduct.

Asymmetry: Cannot be confirmed — As this broadcast is in a format of one-way reading by a single announcer and there is no interaction between a presenter and multiple guests, this criterion is outside the scope of evaluation.

*Summary: As this broadcast is not in a studio discussion or interview format but rather a one-way news reading format by an announcer, the conditions for assessing asymmetry in presenter conduct do not exist. The score is set at 1 (minimum, due to inability to evaluate).*



### 13. Asymmetry of Questions

2/10

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#### Asymmetry 1:

Questions to Finance Minister Katayama (press corps, 00:04:19–00:04:32): "When asked whether market intervention had again been carried out" and "When asked whether there would be no change in the stance of taking resolute measures going forward" — limited to only two points: confirmation of whether intervention took place and confirmation of posture.

Questions to opposition parties / critical positions: None.

#### Comparison

While a question was asked of the Finance Minister that elicited the response "no comment," a follow-up question challenging the problem with that response (the opacity of whether public funds were used) is not reported. Moreover, the very opportunity to question opposition parties or independent experts does not exist.

*Summary: This broadcast is in a reading format, and the content of the press corps' questions is selectively reported by the NHK announcer. Questions to the Finance Minister are limited to confirming whether intervention took place and confirming his posture, and critical questions regarding transparency, policy effectiveness, and impacts on household finances are not reported. However, given the constraint of a short news programme, the score is kept low.*



## 14. False Balance

2/10

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### Finding 1:

#### Timestamp

00:04:07–00:04:19

Structure: "It cannot be definitively concluded that this price movement was an intervention, but they said that among investors a sense of wariness is growing that one cannot let one's guard down even during the holiday period."

#### Analysis

The qualifying expression "cannot be definitively concluded" creates the appearance of balance, but in reality only two sources are used — the government side (Ministry of Finance) and an anonymous market participant — and a critical, independent perspective is absent. While the expression "cannot be concluded" performs an appearance of objectivity, the structural bias in the source selection is not resolved.

*Summary: The qualifying expression "cannot be definitively concluded" stages a superficial appearance of balance, but in the selection of sources there is a bias towards only the government side and the market side, and true multi-faceted balance is not achieved. However, given the constraint of a short news programme, the score is kept low.*



## 15. Agenda Setting

4/10

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### Finding 1:

Agenda element set: Currency intervention by the government and the Bank of Japan is a legitimate and necessary policy tool.

#### Timestamp

00:04:22–00:04:32

Basis: "When asked whether there would be no change in the stance of taking resolute measures going forward, Minister Katayama stated, 'Our stance is very clear.'"

Alternative agenda: The effectiveness, limits, and costs of currency intervention (use of foreign currency reserves), the risk of international criticism, and the underlying problems of monetary policy.

### Finding 2:

Agenda element set: The cause of yen weakness is "speculative movements," and the government's response is the principal agent for solving the problem.

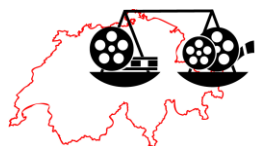
#### Timestamp

00:04:35–00:04:40

Basis: "He stated, 'There has been investment-motivated movement of late; that is clear if you watch.'"

Alternative agenda: Mention of structural factors — the Japan-US interest rate differential, the Bank of Japan's monetary policy, and fiscal policy — is absent.

*Summary: In the exchange rate reporting, two agenda items are set as self-evident premises: "the government is responding appropriately" and "the cause of yen weakness is speculative trading." Alternative agendas — structural factors, policy criticism, and impacts on household finances — are excluded.*



## CHAPTER 4 — OVERALL EVALUATION

### OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE 15 CRITERIA

#### Individual Scores — All 15 Criteria

No.	Criterion	Score	Rating
1	Expert Selection	5/10	Significant imbalance
2	Source Selection	5/10	Significant imbalance
3	Time Allocation	3/10	Slight imbalance
4	SELECTIVE OMISSION	6/10	Significant imbalance
5	Numerical Manipulation	3/10	Slight imbalance
6	Guilt by Association	0/10	Unremarkable
7	Timing	2/10	Unremarkable
8	Selective Indignation	0/10	Unremarkable
9	COMPLETENESS	6/10	Significant imbalance
10	Framing	3/10	Slight imbalance
11	Word Choice and Terminology	2/10	Unremarkable
12	Presenter Conduct	1/10	Unremarkable
13	Asymmetry of Questions	2/10	Unremarkable
14	False Balance	2/10	Unremarkable
15	Agenda Setting	4/10	Slight imbalance

#### HARD FACTS SCORE (1-8)

**3.4/10**

*Slight imbalance*

#### SOFT FACTS SCORE (9-14)

**2.6/10**

*Slight imbalance*

#### OVERALL SCORE

**3.0/10**

*Slight imbalance*

*Average of Hardfacts and Softfacts*



## KEY — Score Definitions

### Individual Scores per Criterion (0–10)

<b>0</b>	<b>No finding</b>	No relevant anomaly detected.
<b>1–2</b>	<b>Weak finding</b>	Minor anomaly without substantial impact on balance.
<b>3–4</b>	<b>Slight to moderate finding</b>	Recognizable tendency; low to moderate impact relevance.
<b>5</b>	<b>Moderate finding with impact</b>	Relevant imbalance affecting the audience's opinion-forming potential.
<b>6</b>	<b>Significant finding (threshold)</b>	Scores of 6 and above are classified as 'significant findings.'
<b>7</b>	<b>Significant finding</b>	Clear, well-documented imbalance with distinct impact relevance.
<b>8–9</b>	<b>Severe finding</b>	Pronounced imbalance; multiple documented individual findings in this criterion.
<b>10</b>	<b>Maximum severity</b>	Systematic, pervasive imbalance in this criterion.

### Aggregated Deviation Index — Interpretation Ranges

<b>0.0 – 2.5</b>	<b>Unremarkable</b>	No significant patterns detected; broadcast meets the impartiality standard.
<b>2.6 – 4.0</b>	<b>Slight imbalance</b>	Isolated anomalies; statistically visible but within tolerance range.
<b>4.1 – 6.0</b>	<b>Significant imbalance</b>	Multiple significant findings; relevant impairment of perspective diversity.
<b>6.1 – 8.0</b>	<b>Serious deviation from the impartiality standard. High degree of deviation</b>	Pronounced, cross-broadcast patterns; high impact relevance.
<b>8.1 – 10</b>	<b>Fundamental systemic one-sidedness. Very high bias degree</b>	Maximum severity across nearly all criteria; systematically one-sided reporting.

### Party-Political Bias (-5 to +5)

<b>-5 to -3</b>	<b>Strongly disadvantaged</b>	Party is significantly underrepresented in framing, airtime, or presentation.
<b>-2 to -1</b>	<b>Slightly disadvantaged</b>	Recognizable but minor disadvantage.
<b>0</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	No detectable favoritism or disadvantage.
<b>+1 to +2</b>	<b>Slightly favored</b>	Recognizable but minor favoritism.
<b>+3 to +5</b>	<b>Strongly favored</b>	Party is significantly overrepresented in framing, airtime, or presentation.



## CHAPTER 5 — LEGAL ASSESSMENT (Broadcasting Act Article 4)

### Assessment Based on Broadcasting Act Article 4

Broadcasting Act Article 4 obliges broadcasters to maintain political fairness (Item 1), accuracy in reporting (Item 2), presentation of diverse viewpoints (Item 3), and a clear distinction between opinion and fact (Item 4).

#### Violation 1:

Standard: Broadcasting Act Article 4, Item 3 (presentation of diverse viewpoints)

Facts: In the reporting on the politically sensitive matter of suspected currency market intervention, only government-side (Ministry of Finance / Finance Minister) statements are reported, and critical and independent perspectives from opposition parties, independent experts, consumer organisations, etc. are completely absent.

Basis: Timestamp 00:04:07–00:04:47 — Quotation: "It cannot be definitively concluded that this price movement was an intervention, but they said that among investors a sense of wariness is growing that one cannot let one's guard down even during the holiday period." "Finance Minister Katayama stated, 'Our stance is very clear.'"

Assessment: Even allowing for the constraint of an approximately 5-minute short news programme, the critical perspective on government policy, the opposition's position, and the views of independent experts are completely absent, and there is a possibility that the requirements of Broadcasting Act Article 4, Item 3 for the presentation of diverse viewpoints are not fully satisfied.

#### Violation 2:

Standard: Broadcasting Act Article 4, Item 1 (political fairness)

Facts: In the exchange rate reporting, only the position of the current government (LDP/Ministry of Finance) is reported, and the opposition's position is completely omitted.

Basis: Timestamp 00:02:35–00:04:47 (exchange rate reporting as a whole)

Assessment: While it is difficult to fully achieve political fairness in a single short news broadcast, the complete absence of any reference to the opposition's position in handling politically sensitive information is potentially contrary to the spirit of Broadcasting Act Article 4, Item 1.

### Overall Assessment Under Broadcasting Act Article 4

This broadcast is a short news bulletin of approximately 5 minutes, and taking into account its formal constraints, it is structurally difficult to fully satisfy all requirements of Broadcasting Act Article 4 in a single broadcast. The meteorological information is reported in a neutral and public-interest manner, and no problems under the Broadcasting Act are recognisable. In the reporting on the suspected currency market intervention, the dominance of government-side statements, the complete absence of critical perspectives, and the bias in source selection are recognisable, and there is room for improvement from the standpoint of Broadcasting Act Article 4, Item 3 (presentation of diverse viewpoints) and Item 1 (political fairness). However, to determine whether these problems are the result of intentional manipulation or structural constraints of a short news programme, it would be necessary to conduct continuous analysis of the same programme. When assessed as a standalone short news broadcast, the evidence is insufficient to conclude that there is a clear violation of Broadcasting Act Article 4, but improvement towards the presentation of more diverse viewpoints is desirable for handling politically sensitive information regarding suspected currency market intervention.

### Source Deep-Check (Targeting All Expert Bodies, NGOs, and Advisory Bodies Cited)

#### Ministry of Finance (Finance Minister Katayama, Vice Finance Minister Mimura)

**1. Funding:** A national institution. Operated through tax revenues and government bonds. Manages the Foreign Exchange Fund Special Account and holds the authority to decide and implement currency interventions.

**2. Mandate:** The Ministry of Finance's role is to execute exchange rate policy, which is structurally incompatible with neutral evaluation of that policy.



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**3. Conflict of interest:** On the question of whether intervention took place and whether it was effective, the Ministry of Finance is in a position of justifying its own policy decisions. On the transparency problem regarding intervention, the Ministry of Finance is also in a position of restricting information disclosure.

**4. Credibility matrix (Source Traffic Light, 6 dimensions, each -2 to +2):**

D1 Conflict of interest: -2 — A direct stakeholder on the question of whether intervention took place and whether it was effective

D2 Personal risk: -1 — Speaking from a political position; personal risk is low

D3 Professional competence: +1 — An expert in financial administration but not an independent economic analyst

D4 Consistency of statements: 0 — Insufficient comparative data

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: 0 — "No comment," "very clear," etc. — no data

D6 Source level: +2 — Primary source (direct participant)

**TOTAL: 0 → Source Traffic Light: Yellow (-4 to +4)**

**5. Opposing sources:** The critical views of opposition MPs, independent economists, and consumer organisations are absent.

## Anonymous Market Participant

**1. Funding:** Unknown (assumed to be a private financial institution).

**2. Mandate:** Observations as a market participant are useful, but cannot be said to represent a neutral stance for policy evaluation.

**3. Conflict of interest:** As a foreign exchange market participant, may have an economic stake in whether intervention has taken place.

**4. Credibility matrix:**

D1 Conflict of interest: -1 — As a market participant, may have an economic stake in whether intervention has taken place

D2 Personal risk: 0 — Cannot be assessed due to anonymity

D3 Professional competence: +1 — Has practical market knowledge but is not an independent analyst

D4 Consistency of statements: 0 — Cannot be assessed (anonymous)

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: +1 — Comparatively cautious, qualifying with "cannot be definitively concluded"

D6 Source level: 0 — Secondary source (observer)

**TOTAL: +1 → Source Traffic Light: Yellow (-4 to +4)**

**5. Opposing sources:** An independent academic perspective and the opposition's position are absent.

Important note: Titles such as "market participant" and "Vice Finance Minister" confer social authority and do not in themselves signify qualification as a neutral expert. In this analysis, an independent evaluation was conducted based on the above matrix.

*This analysis was conducted on the basis of a transcription of NHK News (estimated May 2024, approximately 4 minutes 45 seconds) from the standpoint of compliance with Broadcasting Act Article 4. Due to incompleteness in the transcription (in particular, partial garbling and unintelligible passages in the section 00:03:17–00:03:36), there are limitations on part of the analysis. A complete analysis would require confirmation of the original video and audio.*

## Legal and Methodological Notes

**No factual determination**

The results presented do not constitute factual determinations about individual persons, editorial teams, or broadcasts. They are the product of a standardized operationalization, not a finding of individual responsibility.

**No legal judgment**

The aggregated deviation index does not replace a legal assessment under 放送法 第4条. The determination of whether a specific broadcast violates legal requirements is exclusively the responsibility of the competent authorities (in particular 総務省).

**No proof of causation**

Statistical correlations are not to be interpreted as proof of causal relationships or editorial intent. Deviation values may be influenced by topic selection, news environment, political controversy, or format logic.



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**No judgment of intent**

The analysis measures observable structural characteristics of broadcasts. A score of 7 means a significant imbalance was detected — not that the editorial team intended it. The methodology makes no claims about motives or strategic objectives.

**Heuristic comparison tool**

The index serves comparative pattern recognition across thousands of broadcasts, not precise metric measurement of individual segments. Threshold values serve heuristic orientation, not sharp legal qualification.



## APPENDIX 1: NATIONAL BROADCASTING LAW

### Legal Basis Japan — NHK

#### Legislation

- Broadcasting Act (放送法, Act No. 132 of 1950, last amended 2024)
- NHK Reception Agreement (NHK受信規約)
- Radio Act (電波法)

#### Broadcasting Act Article 4 (Editing Standards)

Original text (Japanese):

放送事業者は、国内放送及び内外放送の放送番組の編集に当たっては、次の各号の定めるところによらなければならない。

- 一 公安及び善良な風俗を害しないこと。
- 二 政治的に公平であること。
- 三 報道は事実をまげないですること。
- 四 意見が対立している問題については、できるだけ多くの角度から論点を明らかにすること。

Official English translation:

(1) A broadcaster must comply with the following when editing domestic broadcast programs:

- (i) It must not negatively influence public safety or good morals.
- (ii) It must be politically fair.
- (iii) Reporting must not distort the facts.
- (iv) It must clarify the points at issue from as many angles as possible where there are conflicting opinions concerning an issue.

Ref: e-Gov ([laws.e-gov.go.jp/law/325AC0000000132](https://laws.e-gov.go.jp/law/325AC0000000132)), Japanese Law Translation DB

#### Four Pillars of Bias Analysis

No.	Provision	SVFAB Analysis Reference
1	Must not harm public safety or good morals	Editorial baseline
2	Must be politically fair	Core bias metric — analogous to Swiss RTVG Art. 4
3	Reporting must not distort the facts	Factual dimension
4	Controversial issues: as many angles as possible	Multi-perspective / balance

#### Comparison Switzerland — Japan

Aspect	Switzerland (SRG)	Japan (NHK)
Law	RTVG Art. 4	Broadcasting Act Art. 4
Independent regulator	UBI (binding)	BPO (non-binding)



State regulator	BAKOM/UVEK	MIC (Ministry of Internal Affairs)
Enforcement	UBI can uphold complaints; BAKOM can sanction	BPO recommends; MIC can issue administrative guidance
Funding	Serafe fee	NHK reception fee (~1,100 JPY/month)
Self-regulation	Moderate (UBI independent)	Weak (BPO co-funded by NHK)

## Regulatory Authorities

### Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (総務省)

- Government ministry with jurisdiction over broadcasting
- Issues broadcast licences
- Can issue administrative guidance (行政指導)
- Approves NHK budget, business plan, and reception fees
- Theoretically has authority to revoke licences
- Recent action: September 2024, administrative guidance after Senkaku incident on NHK Radio International

### BPO (Broadcasting Ethics and Program Improvement Organization)

- Founded 2003, non-governmental, self-regulatory
- Jointly operated by NHK and JBA (Japan Commercial Broadcasters Association)
- Three committees: Ethics Verification, Human Rights, Youth Protection
- Decisions are NOT legally binding — rely on voluntary compliance
- NHK co-funds BPO — structural independence compromised

### Key BPO Decisions Regarding NHK

Year	Case	Ruling
2015	Close-up Gendai — staging allegations	Serious breach of broadcasting ethics
2022	BS Olympic Documentary (Naomi Kawase)	Serious breach — false subtitles
2023	News Watch 9 — COVID-19 reporting	Breach — vaccine families misrepresented

## International Reference

- RSF Press Freedom Index: Japan 2024 Rank 70 (far behind CH: 9, NO: 1)
- Freedom House: Japan classified as "free", but media freedom under pressure (kisha clubs, government proximity)

## Structural Background

NHK is the world's largest public broadcaster by budget (~720 billion JPY / ~4.5 billion EUR). Formal independence is structurally limited through the Board of Governors (12 members appointed by the Prime Minister with parliamentary consent). The kisha club system restricts access to government information to accredited media and fosters proximity between journalists and government.



## APPENDIX 2: SCIENTIFIC REFERENCES

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### SVFAB Working Papers

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*David Schläpfer — ORCID: 0009-0000-5671-9266*



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