

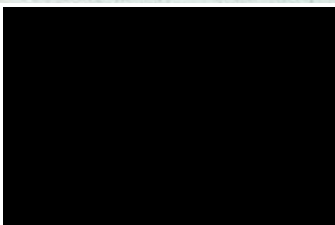
HON. DIRECTOR

David Kennington Litt.D.,

Alexander Barrie AADipl, MAIF, Isabel Koprowski BA

NO/DAW/DP

16th February 1989



Thank you for your letter of 4th January. I am sorry I have not been able to reply sooner but there is no let up of the pressure and of the many issues which arise, almost daily, and to which we feel we must make some kind of response. I have now completed the NCROPA's submission to the Broadcasting Standards Council, but the great discussion and debate about the Government's White Paper on Broadcasting continues apace.

The date of the members' general meeting is still not yet fixed because it is dependent upon the completion of the NCROPA newsletter which I am still struggling at last to finish. Hopefully it should be sometime around late March/EARLY April. You will, of course, be formally notified when the newsletter is despatched.

With regard to your other questions, I do know the "Porn Gold" book (the publishers sent me a review copy) because its authors came here to interview me when they were writing it - although I was somewhat piqued that nowhere in the book am I or the NCROPA acknowledged. Be that as it may, they are largely accurate in what they say. Where small numbers of so-called 'indecent' or 'obscene' articles are intercepted by customs officers they are either allowed through or, at worst, seized and confiscated, unless the owner challenges such confiscation in the magistrates' court. However, there is no guarantee ~~THAT OTHER~~ action will not be taken and particularly if the articles are in large numbers or appear to be intended for commercial use or dissemination, or they depict children under sixteen, charges may be brought under the customs Acts.

The 1984 Video Recordings Act does not specifically ban the depiction of "the organs of human sexual activity", as you suggest. It simply rules that any commercial video work which depicts any of the following is subject to prior certification by the "designated authority", which is, of course, the British Board of Film Classification:-

- (a) human sexual activity or acts of force or restraint associated with such activity;
- (b) mutilation or torture of, or other acts of gross violence towards, humans or animals;

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continuation/.....

(c) human genital organs or human urinary or excretory functions;

or is designed to any significant extent to stimulate or encourage anything falling within paragraph (a) or, in the case of anything falling within paragraph (b), is designed to any extent to do so."

The BBFC will no doubt tell you that their guidelines for censoring video recordings are based solely on the Video Recordings Act and other relevant laws e.g. the Obscene Publications Acts. Their guidelines for classifying videos (and films) are, as far as I know, not published, but ~~you~~ you might like to try writing to them to ask for a copy. You should write to:-

James Ferman,
Director,
British Board of Film Classification,
3 Soho Square,
London,
W1V 5DE.

(Tel. No. 01-439 7961)

If you do so, please let me know the outcome.

I hope this answers your queries and, as and when it takes place, I shall look forward to meeting you at the general meeting.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

David Webb,
Honorary Director,
National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts