

~~GENCENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

N C R O P A

FIGHTING SEXUAL CENSORSHIP


HONORARY DIRECTOR - David Webb, R.A.D.A. Dip., 15 Sloane Court West, Chelsea, London, SW3 4TD - Tel: 071-730 9537

NO/DAW/DP

7th January 1993

The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP,
Secretary of State for the Home Department,
Hone Office,
50 Queen Anne's Gate,
London, SW1H 9AT.

RECORDED DELIVERY



Complaints Against Sir Peter Imbert, the Chief
Commissioner, and Superintendent Michael Hames,
of the Metropolitan Police

On 22nd June last year I lodged an official complaint to the then Chairman of the Police Complaints Authority, His Honour Judge Francis Petre, regarding the conduct of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Peter Imbert, and Superintendent Michael Hames, Head of the Obscene Publications Department of the Metropolitan Police.

Judge Petre informed me by letter (on 30th June 1992) that Police Complaints Authority procedures could not be used regarding Sir Peter Imbert because he was "not a police officer". They could be applied to Superintendent Michael Hames, however, because he is a police officer, I was told. Accordingly my letter of complaint against the Superintendent, with accompanying 'exhibits', was therefore forwarded on to the "appropriate authority" because "the public interest so requires". Under the provisions of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, the "appropriate authority" is, of course, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Peter Imbert - a bizarre enough situation you may think.

The bizarrerie of the situation did not end there, however, since the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Peter Imbert, then refused to accept my complaint against Superintendent Hames as a "complaint" at all (within the meaning of the PACE 1984), and has refused even to record it as such.

The new Chairman of the Police Complaints Authority, Sir Leonard Peach, has subsequently notified me that, in view of my insistence that the PCA should intervene and use its powers incorporated in PACE to investigate this complaint against Superintendent Hames, he has taken advice from the Treasury Solicitor's department and that

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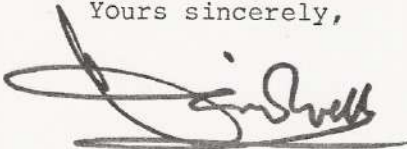
he is still of the opinion that the PCA is unable to take any action on this matter, but suggests that I should take it up "more properly" with the Metropolitan Police..

Since I have already done so exhaustively without satisfaction, I now refer this matter to you as the sole Authority for the Metropolitan Police District.

Since the police-uniform-wearing Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police is not a policeman, and not, therefore, subject to the provisions of PACE regarding the Police Complaints Authority, I now also have no alternative but to refer my complaint against him to your Authority (as specified in Section 62 and Schedule 8 of the Police Act 1964). The original letter of complaint, together with Exhibits A to P, is in the hands of the Commissioner, but for your convenience, I am enclosing herewith a copy of that letter to Judge Petre (dated 22nd June 1992) as well as his reply dated 30th June 1992.

In your capacity as the sole Police Authority for the Metropolitan Police District, I hereby request that both these complaints against Metropolitan Police officers are formally and properly investigated.

Yours sincerely,



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

- P.S. (1) In my original letter of complaint, I referred to Regulation 11 of the Police Regulations 1979 (as set down in S.I. 1979 No. 1470). I am aware that these Regulations have been replaced by the Police Regulations 1987 (S.I. 1987 No. 851). The former Regulation 11 of S.I. 1470 has now become Regulation 10 of S.I. 851, but since this is identical to the former, it in no way affects the substance of my complaint.
- (2) Regarding the 'Exhibit P', referred to on page 8 of my letter to Judge Petre (dated 22nd June 1992), I have subsequently obtained a copy of the whole letter (dated 25th January 1989) written on an official Metropolitan Police letterheading, and from which the article in "The Viewer and Listener" (Summer 1989) quoted. A copy is enclosed herewith.

D.

Enclosures.