



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working together for a safer London

SPECIALIST OPERATIONS

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Dear Mr Baron

Thank you for your letter of May 10.

The internet café project is currently operating in a number of London boroughs and is likely to be extended in the near future. The initiative is a Partnership between police and the café owner; however in simple terms it is a framework to support the café owners in the management of their premises. The initiative consists of the posters to which you refer and screen savers advising the café user not to download or view certain materials.

The café's are open to the public however they are private and as such the café owner is entitled to place restrictions on how the computers are used. Customers then have a choice of using the premises on those terms or not. This is no different to any other location to which the public have access such as public houses, football grounds or shops to name but a few.

You raise a number of points in respect of interpretation of certain terms within the posters. You clearly understand the complexity of such a debate and how it would be difficult if not impossible to cover every aspect of such a debate on a poster. The café owner and or staff are free to interpret this as they feel appropriate for their premises. If police are called then we would be looking for circumstances that constitute a criminal offence. Ultimately a court would be the determining authority in respect of some of the terminology to which you refer and whether it constitutes an offence.

Thank you for your enquiry.

Yours sincerely,

**Mark Goldby
Superintendent**