

NICHOLAS R. WINTERTON, M.P.
(Macclesfield)



Private office: 071 219 4402
Secretary: 071 219 6434
Assistant: 071 219 3585

David Webb Esq
N C R O P A
15 Sloane Court West
Chelsea
London SW3 4TD

October 21, 1992

Dear Mr Webb,

Thank you for your recent letter and for taking the trouble to write to let me know your views on the book, Sex, which has recently been published and which features pornographic pictures of the pop-star, Madonna.

I have now received many letters from individuals around the country in response to my actions in referring the book to the Obscene Publications Squad at New Scotland Yard. Most of these letters have supported my action, although some, of course, and particularly those from individuals who are admirers of Madonna and her work, have taken a different line.

It would, perhaps, be useful, therefore, if I explained just why I felt it necessary to seek to have this book removed from shop shelves.

First, I would say that I am not a prude and that by and large it should be left to individual responsible adults to decide, within certain parameters, the kind of material which they wish to purchase, provided that it does no harm to others.

Secondly, the book in question, whilst explicit in its sexual references, is nevertheless one of titillation value, rather than of hard-core pornography. Whilst it does not interest me, I can see that there are those in

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society who would wish to have access to this kind of material and who may suffer no harm from it.

My concern, however, is not that the book is available to such responsible adults, but rather that it is universally available, without restriction, to everyone in the country who has the means either to purchase it or to read a copy belonging to somebody else. In particular, because the book is widely available, and without restriction on the age of the purchaser, it will be widely seen by children who may be seriously and adversely affected by its content.

In essence, therefore, the problem arises not so much with the book itself, but rather with the law in this country which fails totally to protect our youngsters from harm. It is on this basis that I referred the matter to Scotland Yard who subsequently passed my complaint, in the usual way, to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

The CPS has decided that there is no case to answer in law and that the book can continue to be sold over the counter, to all those who wish to buy it, thus proving my point that there is no protection in British law for children in this case.

I thank you once again for taking the trouble to write to let me know your views on this important matter and do hope that you find these brief comments of interest and assistance by way of a response to the points which you made.

Yours sincerely,

Very best wishes

Nicholas R. Winterton