

11/01/95

Stonewall

Working for lesbian and gay equality

2 Greycoat Place

Westminster

London SW1P 1SB

Telephone: 0171 222 9007

Facsimile: 0171 222 0525

David Webb
15 Sloane Court West
London
SW3 4TD

Your ref: ID001194

Dear David Webb

Police Raid on Clone Zone

As you may have read in the gay press Clone Zone, the gay sex shop, was raided before Christmas by Kensington police and the entire stock confiscated. Clone Zone had recently moved to new premises in the Old Brompton Road although they have been operating in the area for over six years.

No material was contained in the window and there was a clear warning sign stating that it was a gay shop only for those over 18. All the material in the shop contained safer sex messages.

Ironically some of the same material was being sold in a newsagents a couple of doors away, but the police took no action on this.

The raid was carried out by the Kensington & Chelsea police.

We are concerned about any attempt to crack down on gay sex literature. There is absolutely no evidence that the material contained in the shop was likely to deprave and corrupt. The Lesbian & Gay Liaison Officer for the Metropolitan Police has already apologised to Mike McCann, the owner of the shop. Although some stock has been returned, Mike McCann still faces the prospect of an expensive court case.

We believe that this raid raises a number of serious issues about freedom of information and the policing of the lesbian & gay community. I would be grateful therefore if you would consider writing a letter to your Member of Parliament: Nicholas Scott MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Make sure, if possible, that you put your address as he will be influenced by the views of his constituents.

/contd.

Recd. 13/1/95

You could also write to Chief Superintendent Peter Rice, 72 Earls Court Road, London W8 6EQ, who is responsible for the officers who carried out the operation. If you do write it would be helpful to send us a copy of your letters and any replies that you receive.

Thank you for your help and our best wishes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Angela Mason", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Angela Mason
Executive Director

PS If any detail of your name/address is incorrect, has changed or if you wish to be removed from Stonewall's mailing list, please contact the office quoting your mailing reference number.