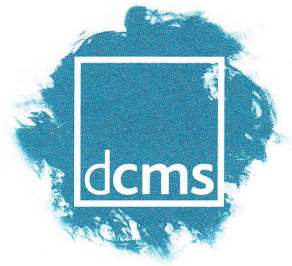


E Goodman Esq  
Campaign Against Censorship  
23 Budgen Drive  
REDHILL  
Surrey  
RH1 2QB

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 7 July 1999



Dear Mr Goodman

#### **EUROTICA RENDEZ-VOUS TELEVISION**

Thank you for your letter of 25 June about the Government's policy on sexually explicit material and the Eurotica Rendez-Vous television service.

The Government does not proscribe all publication of sexually explicit material to all adults. Films, videos, printed material and broadcast programmes are all subject to the general criminal law, and responsibility for what is broadcast on television and radio rests with the broadcasters and the broadcasting regulatory bodies. It is a long-standing principle that the Government does not intervene in programme matters, either on arrangements for scheduling or content.

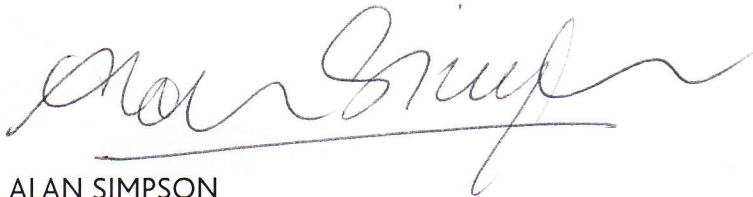
In respect of broadcasters licensed by the Independent Television Commission, specific matters concerning taste and decency are subject to regulation in accordance with the various programme codes and broadcasters' licence conditions. The Broadcasting Acts (1990 and 1996) were debated in Parliament and prohibit the transmission of programmes offending against good taste and decency. As well as specific broadcasting legislation, all television programmes are subject to the provisions of the Obscene Publications Act 1959 and the Criminal Justice Act 1994. As well as those broadcasters with generally based programme remits (which may occasionally show adult-oriented films involving nudity and sex), there are three dedicated adult channels which are licensed in the UK by the ITC. Access to these is restricted through encryption, scheduling and programme information warning viewers. Material of a more adult nature than is commonly shown on mainstream free-to-air channels can only be shown between 10.00 pm and 5.30 am and must, in

any case, not include material refused a classification or given an R18 (for sale on in a licensed sex shop) classification by the British Board of Film Classification. This means that material with an 18 classification is the most adult that can be shown.

The Government recognizes that there is a wide spectrum of views on the balance which needs to be struck between protecting children from harmful material and safeguarding freedom of expression. It takes the view that the nature of the material broadcast by those services which it has proscribed might seriously impair the development of children. Looking beyond the European Union, the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights has consistently recognized that there are limits to the right to freedom of expression.

Responsibility for policy on film and video classification, and for the Obscene Publications Act 1959 and the Criminal Justice Act 1994 falls within the remit of the Home Office who are able to provide you with further information on these points.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alan Simpson', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

ALAN SIMPSON