

Cllr E Goodman
Campaign Against Censorship
23 Budgen Drive
Redhill
Surrey
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Your Ref: Broadcasting Division

Our Ref: 00/08763

4 August 2000



Dear Councillor Goodman

Thank you for your letter of 10 July to Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, outlining your thoughts on the future of communications regulation. I have been asked to reply on Mr Smith's behalf.

A Communications White Paper is due to be published later this year, which will propose new measures to replace current legislation on broadcasting and telecommunications. It will be followed by a draft Bill as soon as Parliamentary time allows.

The Government recently announced (Hansard, 21 July) some guiding objectives that have steered the work on the White Paper to date. These are:

- (i) The creation of the most dynamic market possible for communications services, especially in the light of the growth of the e-economy;
- (ii) Ensuring universal access to diverse services of the highest quality;
- (iii) Guarding consumer interests - protection, choice and value for money.

You indicate that you wish to be consulted about content in relation to the White Paper. I enclose a letter which was published on our website (address: <http://www.communicationswhitepaper.gov.uk>) in April outlining the terms of the consultation exercise on the White Paper.



The period of consultation has now ended, and we are currently analysing the responses received, most of which have now been published on the website. Nevertheless, we would be very pleased to receive from you any further thoughts you wished to raise in relation to the White Paper, which we would be willing to publish alongside the other consultation responses.

Alternatively, I would be grateful if you could let me know, by phone, fax, email or letter, if you would like us to post your letter onto the website as the response of the Campaign Against Censorship to the consultation.

It is still too soon to say what the White Paper is likely to propose in relation to the specific issues you raise. However, I have shared your letter with other members of the joint DCMS-DTI Communications Reform Team of officials, and we will take your comments into account as we continue to develop the White Paper for publication.

I will certainly include your name and address as the contact for any future consultations in this area.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Cowell
Broadcasting Policy Division