

Mr E Goodman  
Chair of CAC  
23 Budgen Drive  
Redhill  
Surrey RH1 2QB

12 February 2001



Dear Mr Goodman,

Thank you for your letter of 15<sup>th</sup> December to Carolyn Morrison, concerning the request by the ITC for the proscription of the Adult X Satellite Channel. I have been asked to reply.

I note what you have said and generally refer you to the detailed responses you have received previously from the Department. The Government's position in respect of the content of programmes on television as set out previously remains unchanged. There remain wide differences in opinion about what is acceptable on television, but we consider that the position taken in this respect has the support of Parliament and the public generally.

The Government takes very seriously its obligations under the "Television without Frontiers" Directive and the European Convention on Human Rights, and considers the action it takes under section 177 of the Broadcasting Act 1990 to be in conformity with those obligations. You point out that other countries allow sexually explicit material to be broadcast, but countries are permitted a margin of appreciation in such matters, and different countries may set different standards according to judgments formed at a national level as to what is acceptable, without being in breach of their obligations. As I have said, the Government believes that its judgments in this respect enjoy the support of Parliament and the public generally.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'E. Pierce'.

Esther Pierce  
Ms

