

Our Ref: CMS 181571/np/27

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26 July 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

Thank you for your letter of 20 June 2011 to Ian Mearns MP, and copied to the Home Secretary about the forthcoming TV show "Girls Gone Wild", to be broadcast by Sky. Your letter has now been transferred to this Department, and I have been asked to reply.

The filming of this programme, as it is described in your correspondence, seems to raise matters principally of public disorder or indecency. The regulators of broadcast or on-demand content can act only in relation to the content of material actually transmitted and, if this programme breaches the Ofcom Broadcasting Code or the laws concerning video-on-demand, then action could be taken by the relevant regulators, Ofcom or ATVOD.

Under the Ofcom Code, there are a range of rules covering the protection of Under-18s, harm and offence around the broadcast of sexual material, the dignity of an individual shown in any programme and the possible infringement of privacy (consent) in the making of a programme (this should be with the person's and/or organisation's consent or be otherwise warranted). Should any programme break these rules Ofcom can investigate after it has been broadcast.

However, the regulators do not have power to act against such content before the event and, since the reports suggest that the programme would be made available on Sky Box Office, it would be best if you approached Sky directly about your concerns.

Yours faithfully

Neil Paragreen