

From: Simon Turney  
Member of the Greater London Council  
for Islington Central  
Chairman, Public Services and  
Fire Brigade Committee

MEMBERS' LOBBY  
THE COUNTY HALL  
LONDON SE1 7PB

D. WEBB, EQ.,  
NCROPA  
15 Sloane Court West  
Chelsea  
London SW3 4TD

14 August 1981

Dear Mr Webb,

Thank you for your letter of 1 June, which Ken Livingstone has passed to me for reply as matters of licensing of public entertainment are the concern of my committee. I must apologise for the delay in replying.

I have read with interest the text of your advertisement in the Guardian about sex cinema clubs, and I think that, so far as the GLC is concerned the key lies in statements (4), (5) and (6) which show that the clubs and the GLC are in agreement as to the standards required. The efforts of the previous administration, which do not seem to me to have met with conspicuous success, were related to "offensive" front of house publicity and not to the content of the films shown within. Of course, if a cinema club is operating genuinely as a club, with no admission of the public, the Council has no licensing control.

I am glad to see that cinema clubs acknowledge the need for safety precautions and do not wish to offend members of the public. As you doubtless know, the Council was not divided in its agreement earlier this year to support the Indecent Displays Bill which has now completed its passage through Parliament and received the Royal Assent on 27 July.

With regard to "sex establishments", the Council is likely to be considering in the autumn a proposal by Westminster City Council that provision be made in the next GLC General Powers Bill for the licensing of sex shops and sex cinema clubs. I understand that the purpose, again, is not to ban such premises but to give local authorities some control to ensure, among other things, that the premises are "suitable" (which would include the prohibition of window displays) and properly conducted. I have not yet seen

full details of the proposals, but I think it likely that the Council will allow them to go forward in the Bill but not actually support them.

I am sure I speak for my colleagues in confirming that the Council will not seek to impose out-moded, repressive censorship constraints.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Simon", followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy flourish.