



DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HERITAGE  
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*From the Private Secretary*

C93/562/835

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National Campaign for the Reform  
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*Dear Mr Webb,*

Thank you for your letter of 25 January to the Secretary of State about the satellite channel 'Red Hot Dutch'. I have been asked to reply.

As you know, there are differing views about such material and it may help if I explain where responsibility for satellite broadcasting lies. Broadcasting throughout the European Community is governed by the EC Broadcasting Directive, which came into force on 3 October 1991. In order to ensure a single market for audiovisual material, the Directive sets minimum standards on matters such as advertising and sponsorship and on the protection of minors.

Broadcasts fall to be regulated by the originating Member State which must ensure that broadcasters under its jurisdiction meet the minimum standards. Should they fail to do so, there are avenues of redress open under the Directive which could, under certain circumstances, lead to the suspension of re-transmission of an offending broadcast service.

The Broadcasting Standards Council (BSC) and the Independent Television Commission also have responsibilities in this area. The Broadcasting Act 1990 gives the BSC a duty to monitor television from elsewhere. The Council may make a report to the Secretary of State about any foreign programming, including how far the programmes meet standards of taste and decency and how violence and sexual conduct are portrayed. The Independent Television Commission also has a duty under the Act to notify the

Secretary of State of the details of any service which it considers to be unacceptable. Both these bodies have issued reports on Red Hot Dutch and we are currently considering how to respond in the light of our international responsibilities.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,  
SM Hadland

**MRS S M HADLAND**  
**Assistant Private Secretary**