

Replied 7/7/94
with handwritten note
in complaints slip
& with receipts
& copy of Press Release
my High Court Appeal
being of
6/6/94.

FINCHLEY

5/2/94

Dear David,


I was given your address by
David [redacted] of Dublin after he read my
letters in Sight & Sound Dec 93 & Feb 94
about Customs seizure of a video tape I
ordered from Holland. It was only an
Action Tape called City Rats about street
kids in Mexico and is available as a
Rental Tape in the UK with just 74
seconds cut out by the BBFC. I had
much correspondence with C & E & my MP
and eventually I returned it to Holland
as I was advised I wouldn't win in court.

I obtained a copy of the English version and its an excellent film with only about 10 mins of violence in a 92 minute film and ~~was~~ Customs were so upset with it I can't imagine. I had several parcels of tapes arrive OK after being opened and looked at by Customs and many of the tapes were uncut versions of Horror films.

I visited Holland last week and saw many tapes at the Virgin Megastore I would have liked to buy but I don't know if most of them would be allowed in or not. They all have a Dutch Rating on them of AL, 12 or 16 and they have imported British videos on sale in Holland. However it seems it is illegal to sell Imported Dutch Videos in Britain. I would have thought this

was a restriction on Free Trade in the European Union. if British videos can be sold in Holland then Dutch ones should be sold here. Sometimes the BBFC cuts a video so children can see it as with the Indiana Jones Temple of Doom video but as an adult I want the full version which is only available in Holland. I ordered it by post and it arrived OK without problem but I should be able to buy it at Virgin in London as the Dutch can buy English videos in Amsterdam's Virgin Megastore. Is there anything the European Court can do about this, surely this is a restraint of free trade.

I would like to join NCROPA
please send me details - Best Wishes



Dear Sir

I refer to your letter of 9 October 1993 about the seizure by this office of a video cassette which was enclosed in a package sent to you from The Netherlands.

The importation of obscene material is prohibited by the Customs Consolidation Act 1876.

The video cassette "City Rats", which you attempted to import, was examined and found to contain explicit scenes of excessive violence, including stabbing and the slitting of a throat. These portrayals are considered to be obscene and render the material liable to seizure under Section 49(1)(b) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979.

You will know that many films in the horror/violence genre exist in at least two versions, due to certain cuts having been made to the original. The version of "City Rats" which you say is freely available in the UK would have been cut by the Distributor before submission to the British Board of Film Classification for certification. You have attempted to import an uncut version.

If you still dispute the liability of the material to seizure, please write to us within 30 days of the date of this letter. In that event, we will initiate condemnation proceedings in a Magistrate's Court. These are civil proceedings at which you, or someone acting on your behalf, should appear to show cause why the material should not be condemned. It is then for the Court to decide whether forfeiture is confirmed or not. It is also for the Court to rule on the matter of costs.

I stress that this is not a criminal matter.

Photocopy for your information

In the end I had to Re-Export the tape
in person because they said it was illegal
to send obscene material via the Royal Mail.