



children's charities' coalition on internet safety

Lynne Kilpatrick
DCMS, 4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

14th January, 2014

Dear Ms Kilpatrick,

The Children's Charities' Coalition on Internet Safety supports the generality of the Government's proposals to amend the Video Recordings Act to bring within its purview a range of video-based materials which at the moment are not covered e.g. videos which might feature drug misuse, strong violence and racist language. However, we are concerned that the scope of the amendments currently proposed do not cover online music videos. Online music videos were the subject of a specific commentary by Reg Bailey following his enquiry into the commercialisation and sexualisation of children.

We hope it is not too late for the Government to reconsider its position in relation to this matter. Material which would otherwise attract a specific, legally bound rating, say of 18 or 15 if it appeared in a film, should not be exempt simply because it appears within an online music video. That is an unhelpful anomaly. A poll conducted by ComRes found that 83% of the British public think online music videos containing sexual or explicit content should be subject to age ratings and regulations. We think they are right.

Yours sincerely,

John Carr OBE
Secretary
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