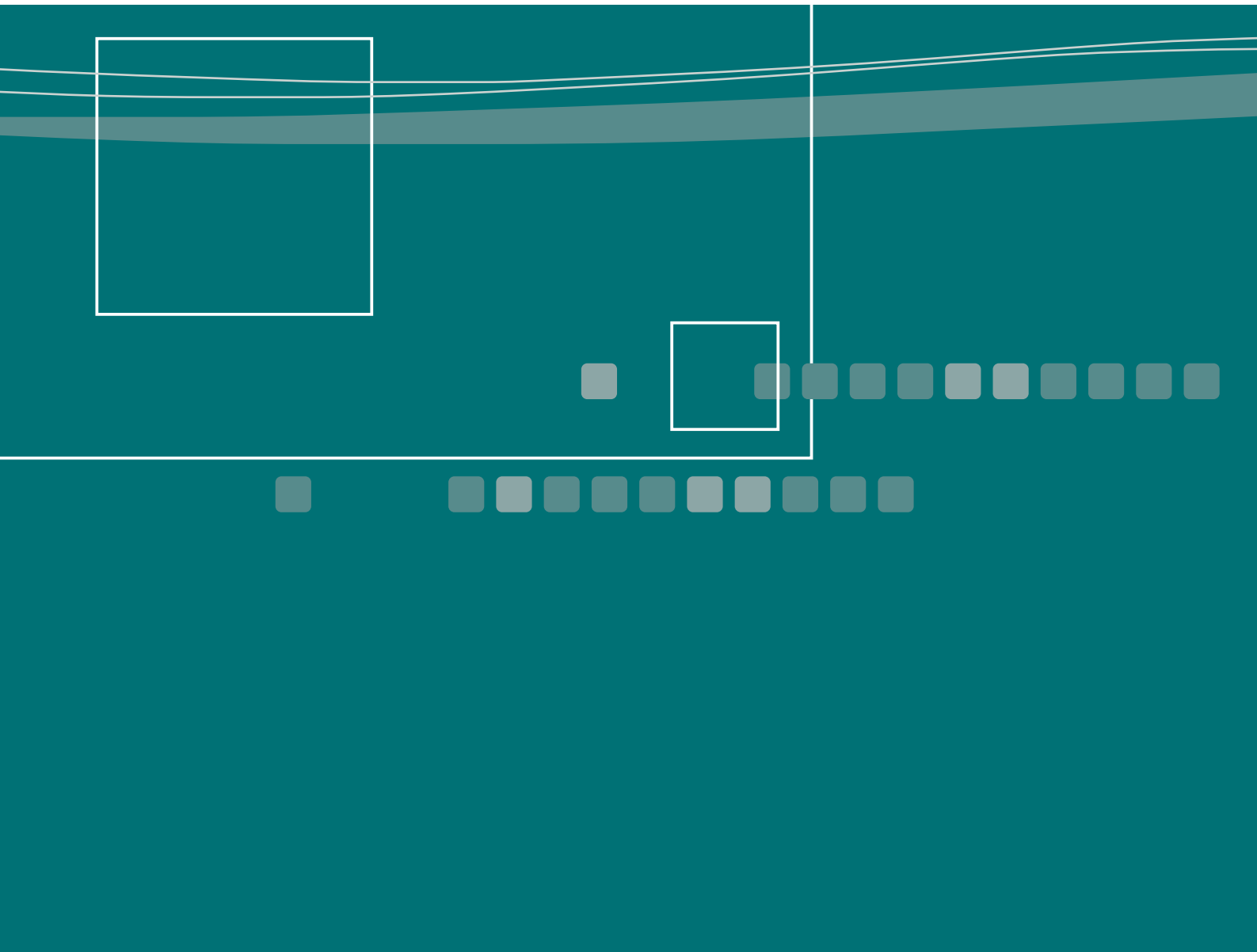


*the* bulletin



**No70**

*Embargoed until  
0001 Thursday 4 December 2003*

As an independent organisation, the Broadcasting Standards Commission considers the portrayal of violence, sexual conduct and matters of taste and decency in television and radio programmes and advertisements. It also provides redress for people who believe they have been unfairly treated or subjected to an unwarranted infringement of privacy.

### **Complaints about standards and fairness**

To consider and adjudicate on complaints the Commission has the power to:

- require recordings of broadcast material;
- call for written statements;
- hold hearings about the detail of what has been broadcast.

All the Commission's findings are reported in this regular bulletin. An on-line version is available on [www.bsc.org.uk](http://www.bsc.org.uk)

The Commission can also require broadcasters to publish summaries of its decisions either on-air or in a newspaper or magazine and report on any action they might have taken as a result.

Fairness Complaints    Page 1-6

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#### ***The Commissioners***

The Lord Dubs of Battersea (*Chairman*)

The Lady Warner (*Deputy Chairman*)

David Boulton

Uday Dholakia

Geoff Elliott

Strachan Heppell CB

Rt. Rev. Richard Holloway

Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin

Sally O'Sullivan

Maggie Redfern

Kath Worrall

Norman McLean *Director*

#### ***For information contact:***

Lucinda Johnston 020 7808 1028

Web site: [www.bsc.org.uk](http://www.bsc.org.uk)

# fairness

Complaints about unjust or unfair treatment can only be made by participants in programmes who were the subject of the treatment or by those who had a direct interest in the treatment's subject matter. Complaints of unwarranted infringement can only be made by those whose privacy was infringed. In considering the facts of the case, the Commission always studies written exchanges of evidence and sometimes holds a hearing with both the complainant and the broadcasters present.

Copies of full adjudications on all the following complaints - whether upheld or not - are available from The Broadcasting Standards Commission, 7 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JS. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Alternatively you can email your request to [adj@bsc.org.uk](mailto:adj@bsc.org.uk)

## Upheld complaint

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### Discussion Programme

Radio XL, 21 November 2002.

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The Broadcasting Standards Commission has upheld a complaint of unjust or unfair treatment and unwarranted infringement of privacy from Mr Harmesh Manghra about Discussion Programme, broadcast by Radio XL on 21 November 2002. The programme discussed the circumstances of a woman who was allegedly stranded in India after her husband stole her passport and returned to the UK.

The Commission took the view that the allegations made against Mr Manghra were very serious and therefore considered that the programme-makers should have afforded him an opportunity to respond to them. The Commission found that the failure to give Mr Manghra such an opportunity resulted in unfairness to him.

The Commission noted that Mr Manghra was not named in the programme, but considered that it contained sufficient personal information about him and his family circumstances to have enabled those in his community familiar with the details of the story to identify him. It considered that although there had been legitimate public interest in discussing the issue in general terms, there had been no overriding public interest in identifying Mr Manghra in such a manner. In the circumstances, the Commission found that Mr Manghra's privacy had been unwarrantably infringed in the programme as broadcast.

Accordingly, the complaint was upheld.

*Upheld*

### Good Morning Scotland

BBC Radio Scotland, 14 May 2003

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The Broadcasting Standards Commission has upheld a complaint of unjust or unfair treatment by Mrs Geva Blackett on behalf of The Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) about Good Morning Scotland, broadcast by BBC Radio Scotland on 14 May 2003.

Good Morning Scotland included an item about a campaign in the north east of Scotland to protect birds of prey. Some contributors to the item suggested that danger to birds came from gamekeepers. The Commission found unfairness to SGA, as an appropriate representative body, in the programme's failure to offer it an opportunity to respond to the contributors' criticisms in the programme.

Accordingly, the complaint was upheld.

*Upheld*

## Today

BBC Radio 4, 14 May 2003

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The Broadcasting Standards Commission has upheld in part a complaint of unjust or unfair treatment by Mrs Geva Blackett on behalf of The Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) about *Today*, broadcast by BBC Radio 4 on 14 May 2003.

*Today* included an item about a campaign in the north east of Scotland to protect birds of prey. Some contributors suggested that danger to birds came in part from gamekeepers.

The Commission found unfairness to SGA, as an appropriate representative body, in the programme's failure to include its response to contributors' criticisms.

The Commission found no unfairness in respect of a complaint by SGA that an SGA spokesman had been misled regarding the terms of an interview given to the programme-makers, which, in the event, had not been used.

Accordingly, the complaint was upheld in part.

### *Upheld in part*

## Sequinned Daughter

BBC Radio 4 between 29 July and 2 August 2003

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The Broadcasting Standards Commission has upheld in part a complaint of unjust or unfair treatment and unwarranted infringement of privacy from Miss Sandra Caron on her own behalf and on behalf of Mr Alan Carr about *Stage Mother*, *Sequinned Daughter*, broadcast by BBC Radio 4 between 29 July and 2 August 2002. The programmes dramatised Alma Cogan's life and the parts of Alma Cogan and her parents were played by actors. Miss Caron and Mr Carr were not referred to in the programmes.

The Commission acknowledged that dramatisations enjoyed some latitude in recreating past events, but took the view that the greatest care was always needed to avoid unnecessary misrepresentation of named individuals and distress to surviving relatives.

The Commission noted the BBC's apology and acknowledgement, in dealing with a complaint from Mr Carr to them, that the element of invention in the serial had gone beyond what was compatible with what was generally known, and their acknowledgement that, in its portrayal of Alma Cogan's family, the serial had merged two generations into one. The Commission considered that as a result the serialisation was unfair in the dramatisation and characterisation of Miss Caron's parents and sister and failed to have regard for the feelings of surviving family members. In these circumstances, the Commission was not persuaded by the BBC's argument that misrepresentation of the lives and character of Alma Cogan and her parents was not unfair treatment of the complainants. It therefore found unfairness to Miss Caron and Mr Carr in this respect.

However, the Commission considers that the story of Alma Cogan's life and information about her family was already in the public domain, and would inevitably attract the media spotlight from time to time. In the circumstances, while the Commission finds that the treatment of the family was unfair to the complainants, it did not consider that their privacy had been infringed in the programmes as broadcast.

Accordingly, the complaint was upheld in part.

The Commission directed the BBC to broadcast an approved summary of the Commission's findings on BBC Radio 4 on 5 December 2003. It also directed that it be published in *The Times* newspaper.

### *Upheld in part*

## Meridian Tonight

Meridian, 13 & 15 December 2002

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The Broadcasting Standards Commission has upheld a complaint of unjust or unfair treatment by The Blue Cross about editions of Meridian Tonight, broadcast by Meridian on 13 & 15 December 2002.

Meridian Tonight reported evidence that a top animal welfare worker had mistreated animals in her care at a Blue Cross centre in Northiam, East Sussex. The Blue Cross complained to the Broadcasting Standards Commission that it had been treated unjustly or unfairly in the programmes.

The Commission found no unfairness regarding statements in the reports that the programme-makers had been “effectively banned” from approaching the animal welfare worker at the centre of the allegations in Northiam, and that The Blue Cross had refused interviews with its chief executive and the animal welfare worker.

The Commission found unfairness in the manner in which The Blue Cross had been invited to respond to an incident involving a man with a knife at a Blue Cross centre in Southampton. Although referred to in pre-transmission communications in general terms, the Commission found unfairness in Meridian’s failure to put a former Blue Cross employee’s allegation of attempted suicide and a further specific allegation of bullying to The Blue Cross in an interview included in the programmes. The Commission also found unfairness in an incorrect suggestion and, in relation to the 15 December programme, a clear indication that there were “similar problems”, allegations and claims relating to Blue Cross centres other than Northiam.

The Commission found no unfairness either in the use of a brief graphic regarding the outcome of a Blue Cross investigation at Northiam or what The Blue Cross had said was the programme-makers’ failure to approach independent witnesses to balance unsubstantiated criticisms. However, the Commission did find unfairness in the programme-makers’ failure clearly to identify to The Blue Cross written material containing specific allegations against the charity.

In respect of allegations which The Blue Cross had investigated, the Commission found no unfairness in Meridian’s representation of the charity’s responses as stating that the Northiam animal welfare worker had been “cleared” and that The Blue Cross had said that the allegations against the Northiam worker had had “no substance”.

The Commission attached significant importance, in terms of the balance of the complaint as a whole, to the parts of the complaint that were upheld and, accordingly, upheld the complaint overall.

The Commission directed Meridian to publish the summary on air on Meridian on 5 and 7 December in the Maidstone and Portsmouth sub-regions respectively. It also directed Meridian to publish the summary in Southern Daily Echo and Kent and Sussex Courier on 8 and 11 December respectively.

## *Upheld*

### Comet Cover-Up

Channel 4, 13 June 2002

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The Broadcasting Standards Commission has upheld overall a complaint of unjust or unfair treatment from Mr Ian F Burns, Mr Anthony John Heath, Mr John Loader on behalf of Hatfield Aviation Association, Mr John Martin, Mr Mervyn Nixon and Mr John Michael Ramsden, about Comet Cover-Up, broadcast by Channel 4 on 13 June 2002. The programme concerned the development of the Comet jet aircraft and the reasons for the Comet 1 crashes.

The Commission considered that, on the evidence before it, the impression given by the programme that The de Havilland Aircraft Company ("de Havilland") had defied warnings and postponed recommended tests to the fuselage which would have saved passenger lives, was misleading. The Commission was also not persuaded, on the evidence before it, that considerations of speedy production or commercial advantage had led to de Havilland acting culpably in the manner alleged in the programme.

In the light of Channel 4's acknowledgement that relatives were paid compensation in accordance with the requirements of the Warsaw Convention, the Commission considered that it was misleading for the programme to state that relatives had never been compensated for the loss of life.

The Commission considered that the programme treated the subject unfairly in these respects. Taking into account the negative impact of this on the individual complainants and members of the Hatfield Aviation Association, who were involved in the design or production of Comet 1 or de Havilland's management at the time, the Commission found this was unfair to the complainants.

The Commission did not find unfairness to any of the complainants in respect of omission to mention the Air Registration Board in the programme, representations made about the nature of the programme or editing of the interview with Mr Ramsden. However, it considered that the aspects on which it did find unfairness represented the major issue in contention and, accordingly, upheld the complaint overall.

The Commission directed Channel 4 to broadcast an approved summary of the Commission's findings on Channel 4 on 11 December 2003. It also directed that it be published in The Daily Telegraph newspaper.

*Upheld*

### The Stephen Rhodes Consumer Programme

BBC Three Counties Radio, 24 September,  
2 & 8 October 2002

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The Broadcasting Standards Commission has upheld in part a complaint of unjust or unfair treatment by Mr Kevin Connolly on behalf of Beehire (Dunstable) Limited about The Stephen Rhodes Consumer Programme, broadcast by BBC Three Counties Radio on 24 September, 2 & 8 October 2002.

The programme featured a listener's complaint about Beehire, a removal company.

The Commission considered that a request by Mr Connolly for a researcher from the programme to verify that he was from the BBC was not in the circumstances unreasonable. In this respect, it found unfairness to Beehire in the portrayal of Mr Connolly's responses to the programme regarding the complaint as being deliberately unhelpful.

The Commission also found unfairness to Beehire, in the absence of an overriding public interest, in eavesdropping on a telephone conversation live on air between the researcher and Mr Connolly and subjecting it to running commentary without Mr Connolly's knowledge. It found unfairness in an inadequate opportunity to respond in this regard and that such unfairness had been compounded by questioning whether Mr Connolly would respond in person on the programme of 8 October.

The Commission found no unfairness to Beehire regarding alleged incorrect details of the subject-matter of the complaint, as Mr Connolly had had sufficient opportunities to inform the BBC of any inaccuracies during telephone conversations with the researcher. It also found no unfairness concerning a complaint of opportunity to respond in the 8 October programme.

Accordingly, the complaint was upheld in part.

*Upheld in part*

### Good Morning Ulster

BBC Radio Ulster, 14 May 2003

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The Broadcasting Standards Commission has upheld in part a complaint of unjust or unfair treatment from P J McGrory & Co, on behalf of Mr Martin McGuinness, MP MLA, about Good Morning Ulster, broadcast by BBC Radio Ulster on 14 May 2003.

The programme included an interview with Mr Nigel West in which he referred to evidence “of “Infliction” “, that he had heard Mr McGuinness “boasting about what took place during Bloody Sunday”.

The Commission took the view that the evidence given to the Bloody Sunday Inquiry regarding an informer code-named “Infliction” would have been familiar to many listeners. It considered that the words used did not imply “Infliction” had himself given evidence and were not therefore unfair to Mr McGuinness in this respect. However, it considered the presenter should have made it clear that Mr McGuinness had frequently denied the allegations that he had fired the first shot on Bloody Sunday. It was unfair to Mr McGuinness not to have done so.

Accordingly, the complaint was upheld in part.

*Upheld in part*

### Sonia Deol

BBC Asian Network, 19 May 2003

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The Broadcasting Standards Commission has upheld in part a complaint of unjust or unfair treatment by Dr Imran Waheed, on behalf of Hizb-ut-Tahrir, about Sonia Deol, broadcast by BBC Asian Network on 19 May 2003.

Dr Waheed, a representative of Hizb-ut-Tahrir, participated in a discussion on suicide bombers. The Commission considered that the introduction in the programme of Mr Hagai Segai, another participant, as “an expert on Middle Eastern affairs” had given his views greater credibility than if listeners had been given an accurate account of the position: Mr Segai had been connected with the Hagshama, World Zionist organisation. It found unfairness to Hizb-ut-Tahrir in this respect.

The Commission found no unfairness to Hizb-ut-Tahrir in the conduct of the discussion. It found unfairness, however, in a misleading and wrong impression that Dr Waheed had walked away from the discussion in circumstances in which he had been “stood down” by the programme-makers from his location in another studio and in his consequent inability to respond to serious claims made in his absence.

Accordingly, the complaint was upheld in part.

*Upheld in part*

# Statement

**Ek Sawaal**

Radio XL, 5 June 2003.

The Commission received a complaint from Mr Harmesh Manghra about the above broadcast. The complaint was entertained and a transcript and a statement in response was requested from Radio XL. However, the broadcaster failed to comply with its statutory obligation to provide the Commission with a statement and a transcript under section 115(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1996. In these circumstances, the Commission has been unable to adjudicate on the complaint.

In a recent complaint about a different programme, Radio XL failed to provide the Commission with a full transcript. The transcript submitted omitted significant material that was relevant to the complaint.

The Commission takes a very serious view of Radio XL's failure to comply with its duties under the Broadcasting Act 1996 and has referred these matters to the Radio Authority, who may consider imposing sanctions for Radio XL's failures.

## Not upheld complaints

<i>Broadcast</i>	<i>Programme</i>	<i>Date of complaint/Complainant</i>	<i>Nature of complaint</i>
HTV Wales 5.12.02, 12.12.02 & 11.02.03	<b>The Ferret</b>	06.02.03 and 12.02.03 Ms Susan Jones	Unjust or unfair treatment and unwarranted infringement of privacy
Teletext 10.03.03	<b>ITV Teletext News Items</b>	28.04.03 Ms X	Unjust or unfair treatment
LWT 22.01.03	<b>Essex Wives</b>	06.02.03 Mrs Amanda Bailey on behalf of Shaunna Bailey (a minor)	Unjust or unfair treatment and unwarranted infringement of privacy
Anglia Television 21.02.03	<b>Crime Fighters</b>	05.03.03 Mr Lawrence Deegan on behalf of the National Taxi Association	Unjust or unfair treatment
HTV 23.03.03	<b>Diary of an Inn Keeper</b>	23.06.03 Mrs Amy Cullimore	Unwarranted infringement of privacy
HTV 27.03.03	<b>Diary of an Inn Keeper</b>	23.06.03 Ms A Heneberry	Unwarranted infringement of privacy
Spectrum Radio 14.01.03 - 16.01.03	<b>Dawn Traders</b>	13.03.03 Mr Navanit Patel	Unjust or unfair treatment



# standards

Complaints about standards (violence, sex, or issues of taste and decency such as bad language or the treatment of disasters) can be made by anyone who has seen or heard the broadcast. In reaching a decision to uphold or not uphold a complaint, the code and research into public attitudes are considered alongside the material and its context. Standards complaints are considered by a Standards Panel in the first instance, and can be referred to the Standards Committee and/or the full Commission.

## Resolved complaints

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### London Today

ITV1, 17 July 2003, 1500

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#### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained about distressing and violent content which she felt was inappropriate for the time of transmission.

London News Network said that the images shown from CCTV footage of violent attacks had been brief and taken from a medium to long distance. The pictures had been justified by the nature of the story being covered and had not shown extreme violence as suggested by the complainant. However, London News Network said that it had reminded producers to exercise due care in the choice of material for end of bulletin recaps, where it was not customary or practical to give warnings.

#### *Outcome*

A Standards Panel watched the item. In view of the steps taken by the broadcaster it decided that it would be inappropriate to proceed with further consideration of the complaint.

CN 11792

### Trailer for What Not to Wear

UK Style, 5 September 2003, 1130

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#### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained about an offensive phrase used to describe disability.

The BBC said that it agreed with the complainant that the comment was inappropriate for inclusion in a trail. The producer responsible for the promotion and the compliance team had been made aware of the offensive nature of the comment and action had been taken to ensure that such comments were not used again. The BBC added that it wholeheartedly apologised for any offence caused.

#### *Outcome*

A Standards Panel watched the trailer. It considered that, in view of the broadcaster's apology and subsequent action, it was inappropriate to proceed with further consideration of the complaint.

CN 12093

## RI:SE

Channel 4, 25 July 2003, 0655-0900

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### *The Complaint*

Two viewers complained about swearing in this programme. One of these also objected to sexual innuendo.

Channel 4 said that a reference to the newsreader's cleavage would have been recognised by regular viewers of RI:SE as a regular jocular introduction to Zora but they were always light-hearted, affectionate and Zora herself did not mind.

Earlier in the show, at just after 7:30am, the show's presenters interviewed comedian Jason Byrne, in advance of his appearing at the Edinburgh Festival. During the interview, he was referred to as being an "energetic" performer and asked whether he had "...ever taken it too far". In response, in the context of a joke, he referred to an "elephant's arse". Because the word "arse" was deemed to be a relatively inoffensive word (confirmed through broadcasting research), the presenters did not react immediately, deciding rather to let it go. However, it was decided that the comedian should be reminded not to swear, in case he repeated the word or used a stronger one. Accordingly, Ian was directed to caution him and, very shortly after, he said: "Just to say we can't have any more of your swear words like we just had then but carry on we love you". Given the word used was a relatively inoffensive one, it believed this caution was pitched just about right. Unfortunately, this well-intentioned attempt to advise him not to use any potentially inappropriate language backfired. Not accepting that the word "arse" might be inappropriate, he proceeded to repeat the word a number of times. The presenters did their best to control him and stop him but there was little they could do. Ian was saying, "...yes, don't say that, we get in trouble, we've got to apologise for that, don't ... no, you can't say it ...".

In accordance with the show's compliance procedures, prior to appearing, Jason Byrne had been fully briefed by a senior member of the production team about the family viewing policy and of the need not to use strong language. He acknowledged that he understood what was required of him and that he was happy to comply. Channel 4 was, therefore, surprised when he deliberately chose to disobey the instructions that he had been given. Jason Byrne had been booked to be on RI:SE all morning and to feature later on in the show in a number of items. However, given his failure to heed the instructions of the producers and the presenters, he was asked to leave the studio after the item.

Jason Byrne's antics were unfortunate but it was clear that the show was not endorsing his behaviour. Even though the word he was using was not a particularly strong one, the reaction of the presenters would have left viewers in no doubt that Channel 4 considered him to be acting inappropriately.

### *Outcome*

A Standards Panel watched this edition of the series. The Panel considered that the innuendo in the programme had not exceeded that acceptable. However it agreed that the repeated use of a swearword had been unacceptable for the time of transmission. Given the broadcaster's apology and subsequent action, it agreed that it would be inappropriate to proceed with further consideration of the complaints.

CN 11840.2

## The Story Makers

Cbeebies, 19 August 2003, 0835-0900

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### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained about the use of 'magic' beans which looked like prescription medicine in a children's programme.

The BBC said that the BBC children's programmes went to great lengths to avoid anything which might conceivably endanger viewers, and in light of what older members of the audience had told them, this episode of The Story Makers had been withdrawn. The sequence had been re-shot with the 'beans' replaced by magic stars. The BBC believed that this had produced an episode which was not only safer for young viewers but also more visually attractive.

### *Outcome*

A Standards Panel watched the programme and noted the incident in question. It considered that, in view of the broadcaster's subsequent action, it was inappropriate to proceed with further consideration of the complaint. CN 11980

**It'll Be Alright on the Night 16**ITV1, 6 September 2003, 2135-2235

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***The Complaint***

Four viewers complained about a clip which showed a bull somersault whilst in a bullfighting ring.

LWT said that the clip did not portray contact with the bullfighter or any injury to the bull arising from the somersault. It was not intended that any offence should be caused by this clip or that it should be taken as condoning bullfighting. However, having reviewed the complaints, which show that viewers were genuinely upset by the footage, the broadcaster said that it had decided to edit the clip from the programme before any repeat transmission.

***Outcome***

A Standards Panel watched the programme and noted the clip in question. It considered that, in view of the action taken by the broadcaster, it was inappropriate to proceed with further consideration of the complaints. CN 12081.4

**U're Music - 'Smack Ma Bitch Up' video**Channel U, 27 April and 27 May 2003, 1700

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***The Complaint***

Two viewers complained about violence, sexual content and swearing in music videos inappropriate for the time of transmission.

Video Interactive Television said that the problem had occurred due to a combination of human and technical error. Modifications had been put in place, which should prevent the repeat of any problems.

***Outcome***

A Standards Panel took into account the broadcaster's recognition of error and subsequent action and considered that it was inappropriate to proceed further with consideration of the complaints. CN 11390/11580

**Match of the Day Live**BBC1, 29 March 2003, 1715- 1935

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***The Complaint***

Nine viewers complained about the inclusion of swearing which had been inappropriate for broadcast at that time.

The BBC apologised for offence caused to viewers. It explained that microphones at this international football match had picked up some severe swearing from the crowd. The broadcaster explained that it had looked into the use of a time delayed broadcast of live events to avoid such language being broadcast but had found that this was impractical. Instead efforts were made to ensure microphones picking up crowd noises were positioned in a way which minimised the possibility of offensive chants being heard. Unfortunately, due to the relatively small size of the stadium the host broadcaster's microphones were able to pick up material which would not normally have been audible.

***Outcome***

A Standards Panel viewed this programme, noting a single use of swearing. It considered that, in light of the broadcaster's apology and recognition of error and also the action taken in good faith by the broadcaster to avoid such incidents, it was inappropriate to proceed with further consideration of the complaints. CN 11209.9

### **Bad Penny**

CBBC, 28 March 2003, 1700-1725

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#### ***The Complaint***

A viewer complained about swearing.

The BBC said that CBBC was only available in multi-channel homes and the programme had therefore been made for an audience familiar with television and its conventions. The bleeping in question was used, as a media-savvy joke, to disguise words that were in fact inoffensive. The BBC accepted with hindsight that this had been a mistake and, as bleeping implied strong language, it suggested there was strong language in the programme. A decision had been taken at a senior editorial level that there would be a presumption against using bleeping in children's programmes in future unless there was a justifiable editorial reason for doing so.

#### ***Outcome***

The Standards Panel decided that, in view of the steps taken by the broadcaster, it would be inappropriate to proceed with further consideration of the complaint.

CN 11231

### **Weekend with Rod Liddle and Kate Silverton**

BBC2, 14 June 2003, 0900-1000

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#### ***The Complaint***

Two viewers complained about obscene language.

The BBC said that this series was intended to offer an alternative to children's programming on other channels on a Saturday morning. Its edgy satire was intended to appeal to a mainly young adult audience. The comments were intended to be mischievous, and to be amusing to a knowing adult audience. But in the light of complaints that had been received, the programme-makers accepted that the use of language didn't take into proper account that some children might have been watching. The BBC apologised to the complainants and stressed that the lessons learned from this series would be taken into account.

#### ***Outcome***

A Standards Panel watched this edition of the series. It noted the content in question, in which the presenters were comparing the shape of Europe, as depicted on a Euro coin, with male genitalia. The Panel agreed that the language had been unacceptable for the time of transmission but, given the broadcaster's apology and subsequent action, agreed that it would be inappropriate to proceed with further consideration of the complaints.

CN 11661.2

# Upheld complaints

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## Trailer for BBC News 24

BBC News 24, 12 July 2003, 0800

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### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained about an over-emphasis on tragic deaths.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

The BBC said that brief trails for the twenty-four hour news services were intended to remind viewers that the service provided coverage of "breaking stories". The clips in question had been chosen as reminders of stories which had been the subject of prominent recent coverage at that time.

### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched the trailer, which included images of twins who had died in an operation to separate them, a multiple death pile-up and a toddler who had been shot. It considered the cumulative effect of such footage at a time when children were likely to have been watching could have been distressing. The complaint was upheld.

**Upheld**

CN 11801

## It Shouldn't Happen to a... TV Presenter

ITV1, 15 July 2003, 2000-2100

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### *The Complaint*

Four viewers complained about the use of the 'f' word pre-Watershed, and one also complained about nudity.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

LWT said that although the presenter used the word at the time of the original recording, the sound of a very loud horn was laid on the programme soundtrack in order to obscure or obliterate the word. The production team used a different approach to the customary 'bleep', after being instructed by compliance staff that the word had to be obliterated for the clip to be acceptable at this time

In part one of the programme there was some brief nudity in that a female protester standing behind a news reporter removed her clothing and moved forward to reveal to the camera her painted body. It was considered that the body paint sufficiently reduced the impact of her naked breasts to the extent that the brief clip was suitable for inclusion in the programme.

## Freeview - Sex Text

Tantalse TV, 12 June 2003, 2100

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### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained about explicit sexual content.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

Tantalse Television said that the nudity was not as explicit as on some other channels. However it said that the programme would be moderated in future and that the presenters would respond in a more moderate manner.

### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched the content, which consisted of two female presenters asking viewers to text in on a premium rate number. The messages were then displayed on screen and the presenters acted out the suggestions they contained. The Panel considered that both the language of the text messages displayed and the reactions of the presenters were inappropriate for broadcast at that time. The complaint was upheld.

**Upheld**

CN 11670

### *The Commission's Findings*

A Standards Panel watched this compilation programme which contained clips of mistakes and mishaps of television presenters. The Panel noted the clip in which a female protester removed her clothing but took the view that the brief and inexplicit shot of her painted torso had not exceeded acceptable boundaries for broadcast at this time. This aspect of the complaint was not upheld.

However the Panel noted that the 'f' word had not been entirely obliterated. Although not clearly audible, the Panel concluded that the swear word was intelligible and had exceeded acceptable boundaries for broadcast. This aspect of the complaints was upheld.

**Upheld in part**

CN 11781.3

### **The Sketch Show**

ITV1, 9 August 2003, 1725-1750

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#### ***The Complaint***

Two viewers complained about swearing and sexual content inappropriate for the time of transmission.

#### ***The Broadcaster's Statement***

Channel Television said that the sketch on a tennis court, where two women were playing tennis for a sum of money, showed one being distracted by a man making grunting noises on a neighbouring court. She berated him with typical Antipodean frankness saying 'You sound like you're shagging a hippo'. It later transpired that the man had been paid by the woman's opponent to grunt as a distraction, meaning she could win the match and claim the associated winnings.

The broadcaster said that the overall tone of the sketch was humorous rather than salacious and that the quick-fire chat (interspersed with tennis balls being violently delivered) negated any potential for offence.

Although 'shagging' was used in a literal sense, the conceit presented was essentially ludicrous and the phrase was used simply to express the frustration experienced by the character as she saw her chance of winning the match evaporate.

Channel Television said that the humour in the sketch was perhaps a little cheeky, but was essentially of a mild nature and was not informed by crudity or lasciviousness.

#### ***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched this episode of the comedy sketch show, noting the sketch in question. The Panel took the view that the language used had exceeded acceptable limits for the time of transmission. The complaints were upheld.

The Panel also noted the use of a scatological phrase, but took the view that the comment was unlikely to have caused widespread offence to the majority of the audience. This aspect of the complaint was not upheld.

***Upheld in part***

CN 11949.2

### **GMTV**

ITV1, 19 May 2003, 0600-0925

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#### ***The Complaint***

Three viewers complained about this programme. Two complained about sexual content inappropriate for the time of transmission and one complained about a comment about a famous footballer.

#### ***The Broadcaster's Statement***

GMTV said that the item featured was a serious piece about sex and sexual problems for the housewife audience, and was deliberately scheduled for 09.14am, well after school children had left the house.

Dr Hilary Jones was on hand to provide specific help to women having sexual problems and the main interviewee was a psychotherapist who worked for Cosmopolitan magazine advising on sex issues.

The broadcaster said that the sex toys were not being 'promoted', but were featured as part of the way in which people could deal with sexual problems.

#### ***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched this edition of the long running breakfast programme, noting an item about sex toys. The Panel took the view that the content was unsuitably explicit and had exceeded acceptable boundaries for the time of broadcast. The complaints were upheld.

The Panel also noted a remark about a famous footballer but took the view that a reference to his latest hairstyle was unlikely to have caused offence to the majority of the audience. This aspect of the complaint was not upheld.

***Upheld in part***

CN 11543

# Not upheld complaints

## BBC News

BBC1, 10 May 2003, 2205-2225

### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained about the juxtaposition of a report about the death of two policemen and a trailer for a later item about the film 'Matrix Reloaded', which included a sequence showing a character jumping on a speeding car's bonnet. The complainant's concern about the rationale for the inclusion of the second item was a matter outside the Commission's remit.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

The BBC said that there was little similarity between the two sequences. The full item about the film had been shown later in the programme, distanced from the report about the sentencing of a man for killing two policemen when his van collided with their stationary car. The trailer had been a flight of fantasy.

### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched this edition of the News and noted the items in question. Whilst acknowledging the problems that can be caused by unfortunate juxtapositions, the Panel took the view that these items had been sufficiently dissimilar to avoid causing offence to the majority of viewers. The complaint was not upheld.

**Not upheld**

CN 11596

## Sooty Heights

ITV1, 31 July 2003, 1550

### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained about language inappropriate for a children's programme.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

Granada Television said that with children's programmes especially, it was mindful to stay within the boundaries of acceptability for the time of transmission.

Granada said that it believed that the series had a clear moral message 'Be good and you'll be rewarded but be naughty and you'll be punished'. It felt the message was undeniably shown in the episode complained about. The mischievous behaviour of one of the characters was revealed in a series of incidents, including one where she re-worded a sign to read 'Smelly Cow'. The character was clearly reprimanded and at the end of the episode was punished while the well-behaved character was rewarded.

## News

Sky News, 23 March 2003, 1530

### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained about distressing images of a wounded American soldier.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

Sky said that the item showed a wounded American soldier being lifted from his vehicle and laid on a stretcher. He was visibly uncomfortable but not distressed. His fellow soldiers were shown to treat the incident fairly lightly and suggested that he should be given a cigar. Sky said that the inclusion of the footage was justified and was not inappropriate for broadcast prior to the Watershed.

### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched this news item, noting the footage of a wounded American soldier. The soldier appeared composed and calm throughout the item which did not include footage of any visible wound or blood. In the Panel's view the item had sought to portray the realities of war and had not exceeded acceptable boundaries for broadcast. The complaint was not upheld.

**Not upheld**

CN 11228

Granada said that throughout discussions during production, it was agreed that the language used within the programme would not be considered offensive to the intended audience. However it believed that those children who could read it would understand it was naughty and would clearly see this naughtiness being punished.

### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched this edition of the programme, noting the language used. It took the view that, within the context of a children's show aiming to convey a moral message, the mild language used had not exceeded acceptable boundaries. The complaint was not upheld.

**Not upheld**

CN 11928

## CD:UK

ITV1, 14 June 2003, 1130-1230

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### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained about inappropriate competition prizes offered in a programme aimed at children.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

Granada Television said that much of the audience to the programme were in the over 16 age group, but that nevertheless it took very seriously its responsibility to ensure that all its material was also suitable for younger viewers.

Granada said that Eminem was one of the leading pop icons of his generation and that his main fan base was thought to be aged between 13 and 17. His videos regularly featured on CD:UK and he had achieved huge album sales. They also said that the artist's CDs were readily available on music store shelves and that there was no age restriction on purchase although they did contain a sticker advertising parental guidance.

Tickets for Eminem's UK concerts were in huge demand and sold out quickly. Tickets went on sale over the counter at ticket agencies, record stores and on the web. They understood there was no minimum age limit on purchase of tickets for the concerts.

The broadcaster said that, given the demand for tickets for Eminem's concerts, and his popularity among the programme's audience, the prize of tickets and CDs was an obvious and natural prize for a music show of this kind. The competition had huge appeal to Eminem's fan base in the programme's audience - and viewers would have been able to buy the tickets and CDs that comprised the prize in record stores. When the phone competition was announced, the usual advice to seek permission to use the phone was given.

### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched the programme. It took the view that, within the context of a pop music show aimed at older children, the prizes offered in a competition, which could be bought by children of any age, had not been unacceptable. The complaint was not upheld.

*Not upheld*

CN 11722

## Bernard's Bombay Dream

Channel 4, 26 June 2003, 2100-2200

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### *The Complaint*

Two viewers complained about swearing.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

Channel 4 said that Bernard's Bombay Dream followed Bernard Manning on a visit to India and two performances he gave in Bombay. Bernard Manning was a household name and widely known for his politically incorrect, often racist and foul-mouthed stand-up routine. The programme looked at how his particular brand of comedy would be received in India and tested his assertion that anything could be excused, however politically incorrect, if it was funny.

The broadcaster added that the comedian was well known for his strong language and that it was an integral part of his speech and stand-up routine. To have edited or obscured it would have completely destroyed any real sense of his particular brand of humour and, in fact, would have given a misleading impression of the nature of his performance and character. Given the nature of Bernard Manning's humour and the use of strong language, the programme was preceded by a clear and unambiguous warning.

### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched this one-off documentary about the controversial comedian and noted the language used throughout the programme. It considered that given the pre-transmission publicity, the warning issued before the programme coupled with the comedian's reputation, the language used was unlikely to have caused offence to the majority of the audience of this programme broadcast after the Watershed on a minority channel. The complaints were not upheld.

*Not upheld*

CN 11724.2



**Coronation Street**

ITV1, 20 July 2003, 1930-2035

***The Complaint***

Ten viewers complained about the trivialisation of date rape and questioned the appropriateness of showing such a storyline before the Watershed.

***The Broadcaster's Statement***

Granada Television said that unfortunately date rape drugs had become a part of society and the producers felt that it was necessary to highlight this menace. To accentuate the inherent dangers of inflicting these drugs on people, it felt that Roy, as a well loved and sympathetic character, would show the real and devastating consequences that occur when they are used. To complete this story and make it unique to the series, it was agreed that a woman should be the instigator and administer the drugs.

Although the story started as a light-hearted bet between two thoughtless characters, viewers would see that it rapidly descended into something far more serious. The story had a clear moral theme in that those who set out to cause harm would, ultimately, cause more harm to themselves.

***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched this episode of the well-known soap opera. It noted scenes in which a character, known to be an amoral schemer, put a date rape drug into the drink of a vulnerable, though staunch character, merely to win a bet with her friend. She was then shown taking the man home, allegedly to sleep with him. The Panel considered that the story had highlighted the dangers of leaving drinks unattended and had in no way trivialised or promoted such behaviour. The woman's actions were clearly shown to be wrong and subsequent developments had demonstrated the community's wrath at her actions - although it did not fully know the extent of them. Nothing shown in the episode was explicit and the Panel considered that the content had not exceeded that acceptable for broadcast pre-Watershed. The complaints were not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 11798.10

**James Hewitt: Confessions of a Cad**

Channel 4, 24 July 2003, 2100-2200

***The Complaint***

Four viewers complained about distasteful comments concerning the late Diana Princess of Wales.

***The Broadcaster's Statement***

Channel 4 said that the programme had featured James Hewitt in his bid to find a buyer for the love-letters which he received from Princess Diana. During the course of the programme he answered allegations that his proposed sale of the letters was insensitive to the memory of Princess Diana and her sons. He spoke revealingly about his relationship with Princess Diana and his life since the end of their affair and her death.

Channel 4 said that one scene shows one of James Hewitt's friends doing an impression of him and mocks his attempts to sell the love-letters. The friend then commented on Princess Diana's alleged sexual prowess.

Channel 4 said that the inclusion of this exchange was justified by the importance of showing James Hewitt's true colours in his flippant attitude to Princess Diana. It also undermined the way he spoke about Princess Diana in more guarded moments.

***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched this observational documentary focusing on James Hewitt's controversial plans to sell love-letters from Princess Diana. It recognised that such insensitive remarks about Princess Diana's sexual prowess were likely to evoke strong emotions in viewers, but took the view that they had not exceeded acceptable boundaries for broadcast in a frank assessment of an individual whose relationship with Princess Diana had already been the subject of significant publicity. The complaints were not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 11843.4

## Magnolia

BBC2, 29 March 2003, 2115-0010

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### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained about swearing.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

The BBC said that this film told the story of the interconnected lives of nine people during one day in the San Fernando Valley, California. The desperate, crisis-ridden individuals were linked in various ways by a game show called "What Do Kids Know?", and had to find means of dealing with anger, guilt, loneliness and other negative and powerful feelings. The film was emotionally very intense, with its characters often involved in sexual situations and drug abuse, and the frequent use of strong language reflected that.

Magnolia was a dark, sometimes funny, occasionally disturbing work which was always serious in purpose. The film's transmission took place in a post-Watershed slot preceded by a clear warning about the very strong language and adult content.

### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched this film which centred around the lives of nine individuals in different stages of life. It took the view that the language used, which included some of the most severe words, was included to demonstrate the experiences and to highlight the emotional stress that they encountered. The Panel concluded that, in the context of a film that explored the intensity of human emotions and relationships, and the individuals' escape and defense mechanisms to deal with these emotions, the language did not go beyond acceptable boundaries of broadcast. The complaint was not upheld.

*Not upheld*

CN 11233

## The Royal: *One of Those Days*

ITV1, 22 June 2003, 2000-2100

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### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained about a distressing scene in the programme.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

Yorkshire Television said that the story in the episode about the revival of an apparently stillborn baby had been related to it by a retired nurse and it had happened to her as shown. Nowadays the baby would probably be assessed as not actually stillborn. Yorkshire Television felt that the filming had been discreet. To show any less would have taken away from the drama of the moment. It was unrealistic to avoid tackling subjects which might be upsetting to particular individuals.

### *The Commission's Finding*

The Committee watched the programme, an episode in this well-established series, and noted a scene in which a nurse revives an apparently stillborn child by immersing it alternately in hot and cold water. It considered that, given the historical setting, the fact that the nurse involved was a nun and that no explanation had been offered, the sense of a miracle was conveyed rather than accepted medical practice. The complaint was not upheld.

*Not upheld*

CN 11741

**Jam**

Channel 4, 30 April 2003, 2340-0010

***The Complaint***

A viewer complained about swearing and tasteless content.

***The Broadcaster's Statement***

Channel 4 said that the programme's unsettling black humour was derived from its uncompromising and scathing commentary on society's cruelties and absurdities. The sketch set in the doctor's surgery represented the detached, almost dehumanised nature of the doctor/patient relationship and satirised the dilemma modern doctors faced and the choices they were confronted with given the lack of public funding. The dialogue was intended to exaggerate the circumstances of the health system, the doctor/patient relationship and the length they must go in order to raise funds. Placed in this context, the language used and the sexual references employed were both appropriate and necessary.

Channel 4 said that the sketch involving a child disposing of a corpse satirised the extent to which viewers have become accustomed to seeing children playing pivotal roles in adult films and dramas. The six-year old character in the sketch was played by an experienced nine-year old actor who was chaperoned by a family member at all times. The script was approved by the child's mother, the child clearly understood the fictitious nature of the sketch and was untroubled by the scene. The child's voice was dubbed with an adult actor's voice in the programme broadcast.

Channel 4 said that the humour of sketch involving a child's coffin derived not from the fact of the abortion, nor the inappropriateness of the friend's gift of a coffin, but rather from the darker complexities of the relationship between the couple and the friend. In the context of the objectives and intention of the programme's creator, and his public notoriety, Channel 4 believed that the majority of the audience would not have been offended by the content

***The Commission's Finding***

The Standards Committee watched the programme, noting the pre-transmission warning. Whilst it recognised the serious issues raised by the complainants, the Committee took the view that the programme's creator had by now attracted such notoriety that the repeat of this early example of his work was unlikely to have caused offence to the majority of the audience when well-signposted and broadcast well after the Watershed on a minority channel. The complaints were not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 11404

**The 2003 Teen Choice Awards**

Channel 4, 10 August 2003, 1220-1410

***The Complaint***

A viewer complained that scenes of a performer eating cockroaches live on stage were unsuitable for small children watching at that time.

***The Broadcaster's Statement***

Channel 4 said that the Teen Choice awards were an annual awards ceremony, which celebrated popular youth culture. Whilst the sketches were light humoured and brazen they were also carefully co-ordinated and highly scripted live skits. The intended audience of the Teen Choice Awards programme was young people in their teens. However at this transmission time there would undoubtedly have been some younger children in the audience and the channel had judged the programme as suitable for a family audience.

The complained of images were shown when two presenters and a performer followed a scripted introduction for the award category 'Reality TV's Grossest Moment'. The skit was a parodied re-enactment of a scene from "Survivor-The Amazon" where contestants were asked to consume worms, cockroaches, and caterpillars for bonus points on that programme.

The body language of the presenters coupled with their facial expressions (which could only be described as conveying utter repulsion) distanced themselves from "Captain Cockroach's" behaviour. Rather than encouraging or glamorising eating cockroaches, the skit in fact had the opposite effect. Captain Cockroach undoubtedly had cockroaches in his mouth but no cockroaches were in fact eaten. It was no more than a carefully orchestrated illusion, similar to a magician swallowing swords. The issue of actual cruelty did not arise.

***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched the ceremony and noted scenes in which a performer pretended to eat cockroaches as well as letting them crawl around his face and head. The Panel noted that the stunt was a carefully prepared illusion and that no cockroaches had been harmed. The reaction of the presenters conveyed their fascinated revulsion and the Panel considered that this would have been shared by the majority of viewers. The complaint was not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 11979

### **A Touch of Frost: *Dead Male One***

ITV1, 8 August 2003, 2030-2230

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#### ***The Complaint***

A viewer complained about nudity inappropriate for the time of transmission.

#### ***The Broadcaster's Statement***

Yorkshire Television said that edition typified the series' usual complex, intertwined format. The murder of a local maverick football star meant delving into the world of that sport and included the scene of the post-match communal bath. It was a sporting ritual and for the drama, a perfect back drop for the rowdy antics necessary to reveal the key player's character.

#### ***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched this edition of the well-established crime series and noted the scene complained of. The Panel took the view that the scene was extremely brief and, in the context of a long-running drama, had not gone beyond acceptable boundaries for broadcast at this time. The complaint was not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 11946

### **Trailer for *Casualty***

BBC1, 10 September 2003 1755

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#### ***The Complaint***

A viewer complained about the inappropriate and excessive depiction of serious injuries for the time of transmission.

#### ***The Broadcaster's Statement***

The BBC said that the trailer had captured the tension and drama of the programme without being too graphic. Although it included brief shots of injured people, it did not show the moment of the crash or injuries being sustained, nor did it dwell unduly on the gravity of the consequences.

#### ***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched the trailer, noting that it had not been shown before or after children's programmes. It considered that the depiction of injuries had been brief and that the trailer had not gone beyond acceptable boundaries for the time of broadcast. The complaint was not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 12078

### **Breakfast Show**

Metro Radio, 18 June 2003, 1000

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#### ***The Complaint***

A listener complained about distressing content.

#### ***The Broadcaster's Statement***

Metro Radio said that every "wind-up" call was pre-recorded and edited and permission to air the final version was always sought. In this instance, the lady's son had provided the detail and was consulted throughout the call as to how far the broadcaster should go. Metro Radio observed appropriate boundaries when building features such as wind-ups.

#### ***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel listened to the programme, in which a lady was purportedly accused in a "wind-up" call of letting her dog foul footpaths. The Panel noted that permission had been sought to broadcast the call and considered that it had not exceeded acceptable boundaries for a humorous item in a magazine programme of this nature. The complaint was not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 11671

**Celebrity Most Haunted**

Living TV, 30 September 2003, 2100-2200

***The Complaint***

A viewer complained about the swearing.

***The Broadcaster's Statement***

Living TV said that the premise of the series was to spend 24 hours at a location that had reported some kind of paranormal activity. The programme host, psychic medium, paranormal investigator and production team usually covered the stories.

The episode in question was originally commissioned for Living TV's "paranormal weekend" in August and differed slightly from other episodes in-as-much as celebrity Vic Reeves and his wife Nancy Sorrell joined the team.

***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched the programme. It noted the use of some strong language but considered that its use, in moments of intense emotion, was unlikely to have caused widespread offence amongst the post-Watershed audience of this minority channel. The complaint was not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 12186

**Trailer for Pop Idol**

ITV1, various dates and times

***The Complaint***

Four viewers complained about the depiction of animal cruelty.

***The Broadcaster's Statement***

Channel Television said that the trailers for Pop Idol used mechanical representations of animals singing popular songs and as such it did not expect many complaints. The trailers did not advocate or endorse cruelty to animals.

***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched the trailers. It noted that no real animals were used in the trailers, that the animals featured were mechanical and that these complaints did not concern the trailer's broadcast immediately after programmes for very young children. The Panel considered that the depiction of a well-known Pop Idol judge blowing up singing mechanical animals due to their perceived inability to sing was light-hearted in nature and unlikely to encourage imitative behaviour. The complaints were not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 11889.4

**Regional Television News**

ITV1 Tyne Tees, 21 July 2003, 1800-1830

***The Complaint***

A viewer complained about sexual content.

***The Broadcaster's Statement***

Tyne Tees Television said that the item concerned an increase in stag parties visiting Whitley Bay. The shot complained of featured a woman dancer removing her skirt as part of a routine, but she was wearing a bikini and boots underneath. The sequence was not sexually explicit and it would have been difficult to illustrate the issue of stag nights without showing typical participants and entertainment involved.

***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched the programme and noted that the woman was shown with clothes under her skirt. It considered that the item had not exceeded acceptable boundaries for a news report on a matter of concern to the local community. The complaint was not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 11832

## Derren Brown plays Russian Roulette Live and associated trailers

Channel 4 and E4, 5 October 2003 & various dates July 2003

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### *The Complaint*

Eight viewers complained about trailers for this programme which they considered to be distasteful, to make light of suicide, likely to encourage copycat incidents and to promote gun culture. Eight viewers complained in similar terms about the programme itself, two also objecting to the juxtaposition of this programme and that about the suicide of a public figure.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

Channel 4 said that it considered the proposal for this programme from first principles and at a very early stage before the commission had been confirmed. The elements of the proposed programme which were carefully analysed were: the exact nature of the programme material, and how it related to magic and illusion; the real risk to Derren Brown or his accomplice as a result of the performance; the risk of offence to the taste and sense of decency of viewers, including scheduling and delay issues; the implications in terms of glamorising guns and the danger of imitative behaviour; the implications, given the context of the programme as an integral part of a season of magic programmes, on misleading the audience and previous television programmes featuring the use of guns. It was concluded that it was acceptable, performed by a skilled illusionist as part of Magic Month on Channel 4. Indeed, the presentation announcer referred to it as "quite possibly the greatest television magic trick ever....next, Derren Brown Plays Russian Roulette"

From very early in this project, there was full discussion between the production company, the commissioning editor at Channel 4 responsible for the programme and senior executives at the channel. The programme featured the psychological illusionist using his skills and abilities to correctly predict the chamber in which a carefully selected member of the public had placed a bullet. The structure of the programme was such that, even for viewers who had not previously known of Derren Brown, it would have been clear to them, before guns were seen to be handled or used, that he was an illusionist. It was important to do this, so that anyone watching the programme who had not previously encountered his performances would nevertheless have had a clear understanding of the underlying premise of this programme and his unique abilities.

The final part of the programme, which was transmitted live but with a short delay of fifteen minutes, showed the final selection of the person who would load the bullet into the chamber of the gun, prior to the sequence where

Derren played Russian Roulette. This last part shows the gun being prepared in a way which precluded Derren seeing which chamber is loaded by the chosen person; and finally Derren choosing which chambers to fire at himself and which to fire at a sandbag. As viewers discovered, Derren's mind and body language reading of his carefully selected member of the public enabled him to work out correctly with which chamber to point the gun at the sandbag, and Derren was unharmed. It was a magician's job to suspend the viewer's disbelief while he performed his illusions and this was also true of Derren Brown's Russian Roulette.

He had consistently said in his public appearances and press statements that unless he was one hundred percent certain that he would be safe, he would not pull the trigger. Channel 4 and the production company, Objective Productions, also took steps to establish to their satisfaction that there would be no risk at all to anyone involved or those in attendance. There was also discussion with the police in Jersey prior to the filming taking place, as they wished to be satisfied that no criminal offences were going to be committed and that there was no danger of harm resulting. It was also believed important for there to be a short compliance delay in the live part of the programme, as has previously been done for other live programmes. This clearly meant that there was no chance whatsoever of viewers seeing Derren harmed in any way.

The other scheduling issue raised by viewers was the fact that this programme followed an earlier documentary about Dr David Kelly. This juxtaposition was given consideration and the conclusion reached that there were sufficient distinctions in terms of subject matter to justify the scheduling.

During the initial discussions about the programme, the view was taken that as part of an overall need to ensure that the project did not in any way glamorise or fetishize guns, the solicits for participants, trailers for the programme and off-air poster campaigns would not feature images of real guns. Similarly, there was no gun imagery at all in the title sequence or stings within the programme. Instead, wide use was made of graphics relating to the overall theme of the programme. The position was also adopted that in terms of on-air solicits and trailers, there would be no promotion of the programme at all before the 9.00 pm Watershed. The programme was promoted in the context of Magic Month and the tradition of magic.

The fact that the criminal use of guns in Britain has been growing over many years does, of course, mean that broadcasters need to be mindful of their responsibilities when using guns in any form of entertainment. However, the manner in which the programme dealt with the gun used by Derren was very far removed from glamour; it emphasised the dangers posed by the use of guns; and the broadcast carried five separate warnings explaining the dangers, the context and the need not to copy anything seen.

The risk of copycat incidents was a primary concern of the Channel. In addition to the warnings, there is also the context of very tight gun licensing laws and enforcement in Britain, meaning that the stunt was not, as for example with knife throwing, being performed with readily available domestic items. A further important background consideration that was part of the early process of research and discussion during the production was the fact that there are many previous instances over the last twenty years of either Russian Roulette or 'bullet catching' being played in magic entertainment shows on terrestrial television, some of which were shown pre-Watershed.

#### *The Commission's Finding*

The Standards Committee watched the programme and associated trailers. The Committee acknowledged the concerns of the complainants, particularly in the light of the current rise in the illegal use of guns. However, it took the view that the programme was clearly based on, and promoted as, an illusion, similar to others that had been publicly performed in the past. The Committee noted the significant level of warnings that had been given, the careful treatment of the issues of potential glamorisation or copycat incidents and considered that the programme did not promote gun culture, nor make light of suicide. Furthermore, the Committee considered that the juxtaposition of this programme with that about Dr Kelly was unlikely to have caused widespread offence, given the distinct differences in content and context. It took the view that the content of the trailers had been carefully handled. In conclusion, the Committee considered that, given the programme's broadcast post-Watershed, on a minority channel and with unambiguous warnings, neither its content, nor that of the trails, had exceeded acceptable boundaries. The complaints were not upheld.

*Not upheld* CN 11892.5/11897.3/12176.8

### **The Dunera Boys**

Five, 9 & 10 January 2003, 1540-1730

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#### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained about the scheduling of scenes of drunkenness, lasciviousness, sexual conduct and language and a scene showing a transvestite.

#### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

Five said that the film, a true story, was bitter-sweet, focusing with compassion and humour on a seldom explored element of the Second World War of which few people nowadays were aware. It was edited for afternoon transmission.

It said that the film in no way glamorised drunkenness and contained no nudity or sexual activity. A scene involving two teenagers exploring their sexuality was couched in innocent language and could not be described as adult. This scene along with the rest of the film was in no way inappropriate for the time of transmission.

#### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched this two part film drama, a true story of a group of Jewish refugees who had fled Nazi Germany to seek refuge in England. It noted that the film contained no nudity or sexual activity. In its view the brief discussion of sexuality between two teenagers was inexplicit and treated with sensitivity. The film did not glamorise drunkenness and a scene in which a male prisoner of war dressed up as Marlene Dietrich as part of a show performed by prisoners fell squarely within the broad traditions of music hall variety shows. In the circumstances, it considered that the film's content had not exceeded acceptable boundaries for broadcast in the afternoon. The complaint was not upheld.

*Not upheld*

CN 10644/10645

**Casualty: *End of the Line (Part 2)***

BBC1, 14 September 2003, 2000-2100

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***The Complaint***

A viewer complained about disturbing imagery.

***The Broadcaster's Statement***

The BBC said that viewers would have been aware that the drama's reflection of life in an A&E department regularly featured, on the medical side, images of people who had suffered unpleasant injuries. It was true to say that the number of casualties involved in this, second part of a two part drama, was somewhat greater than usual, but it did not believe the extent of the injuries depicted was any more severe than in the past, or that it would have exceeded the expectations of the audience.

***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched this edition of the long running medical drama and noted the concerns of the complainant. It considered that, in the context of a medical drama series that often featured physical injuries, the content was unlikely to have caused offence to the majority of the audience familiar with the genre. The complaint was not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 12098

**Waking the Dead: *Multistorey (Part 1)***

BBC1, 14 September 2003, 2100-2200

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***The Complaint***

A viewer complained about violent scenes involving a sniper.

***The Broadcaster's Statement***

The BBC said that the scenes were filmed in a deliberately "distancing" style, intercutting the sequences with mocked-up grainy and indistinct black and white security camera footage and jerky, news-style shots. The injuries shown were confined to small amounts of blood, and the images were brief. The scene was constructed and edited very impressionistically - viewers were left in no doubt as to what had happened, but the overall effect of the sequence was to describe what happened, not to depict the injuries.

***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched this episode of the established thriller series. The Panel noted that the scenes gave a strong impression of violent behaviour but had not actually depicted the injuries in a detailed manner. The Panel considered that the content, broadcast after the Watershed, was unlikely to have offended the majority of the audience. The complaint was not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 12099



## Terror in the Philippines

BBC2, 15 June 2003, 1915-2000

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### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained about graphic footage of decapitation.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

The BBC said that Correspondent had been a leading television foreign affairs programme for nearly a decade. It was scheduled before the Watershed to make sure that as many viewers as possible had the chance to benefit from its coverage of issues. It had an established reputation for an unsanitised approach when abroad, does indeed, prove to be bloody, but also for taking proper account of viewer expectations at that time in the evening.

In this edition, the BBC believed that the reporting of the atrocities perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf group was justifiable in terms of the story the programme was trying to tell which was the threat to the Philippines from extremist groups which claimed links with al-Qa'eda, and the US response. The topic was referred to properly in advance and was not itself unsuitable in terms of tone or content.

The reporter had made clear that brutal violence was a notable feature of the Philippine insurgency. This was shortly before he explained Abu Sayyaf's fundraising activities, which consisted mainly of demanding ransom money for kidnap victims, who were beheaded if the demand was not met and providing video evidence of such 'executions' was part of the group's terror campaign. The programme showed the reporter viewing one of the tapes, but the worst of what was happening was conveyed through his description of what he was watching and through his own reaction as observed by the camera.

The BBC believed that the internal warning in the reporter's commentary and the announcement before transmission, took proper account of likely sensitivities.

### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched this edition of the well-established current affairs programme. It noted footage of a hostage kneeling on the ground, then a distance shot after the decapitation had taken place. The Panel took the view that, in the context of a programme examining and highlighting the existence of a terrorist organisation, its possible links to terrorist action around the world, and its methods for gaining recognition and funding, the inexplicit content had not exceeded acceptable boundaries for broadcast at this time. The complaint was not upheld.

*Not upheld*

CN 11658

## Worse Case Scenario

Bravo, 23 June 2003, 0000-0055

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### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained that it was dangerous for the programme to show someone siphoning petrol using their mouth.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

Flextech Television said that the series was based on a book that detailed the best course of action when faced with your 'worse case scenario' when conventional, sensible action would prove futile. It was an extreme survival programme which presented many improbable situations and explained the most suitable actions that would need to be undertaken to escape that predicament as safely as possible. All of the eventualities were 'fantastic' and certainly not the sort of situations that you would anticipate facing on a daily basis.

The programme had a clear warning stating that the stunts, which were highly dangerous, had been designed and mostly performed by highly trained professionals. The sequence in question tried to replicate what would happen if you had been shipwrecked and were forced to survive with spurious items recovered from your boat. The test in which gasoline siphoning was seen was an exercise in tenacity and clear thinking. There was a clear on-screen warning not to ingest the gasoline which would contribute to viewers' awareness that what was shown was potentially hazardous.

### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched this edition of the series and noted the item in question. It acknowledged that the scenarios presented circumstances far removed from those that viewers were likely to encounter and that the practice had been clearly labelled as dangerous and not one to try to replicate under normal circumstances. The Panel took the view that, when clearly labelled and broadcast late at night on a minority channel, the content was not irresponsible. The complaint was not upheld.

*Not upheld*

## Saint Paul

BBC1, 29 June 2003, 1900-2000

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### *The Complaint*

Two viewers complained about this programme. One complained about homophobic content and the other about anti-Semitism.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

The BBC said that there was a well-established hermeneutical tradition of interpreting the relevant words of Paul as a condemnation of homosexual activity generally. More recently it had been argued that his meaning was obscure, but there seemed to be agreement that Paul had been making some kind of homosexual reference and that he regarded this type of behaviour as perverse. The programme had used the term "homosexual perverts" in order to avoid the implication that Paul was necessarily intending a general condemnation of homosexuality, but only sexual activity between men of a type that he regarded as perverse. There had been no intention to condemn homosexuality per se, or suggest that Saint Paul had. Nor was the term used now considered to be strong language.

### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched the programme, which examined the life of Saint Paul. It considered that the language used to interpret Saint Paul's words was reasonable in the circumstances and had not exceeded acceptable boundaries for a serious documentary programme of this nature broadcast in the early evening. It also considered that the depiction of Saint Paul was unlikely to have encouraged anti-Semitic sentiments. The complaints were not upheld.

*Not upheld*

CN 11786.2

## Monkey Dust

BBC2, 7 August 2003, 2320-2350

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### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained that this programme mocked serious crimes and showed sexually explicit content.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

The BBC said that a pre-transmission announcement had alerted viewers to 'strong language and scenes that you may find distressing'. The humour was certainly acerbic, portraying contemporary life as an urban nightmare of abuse and exploitation in a range of forms - of the person, of relationships, of power and position, and of language.

It was not suffering that was the object of the humour, but rather those that inflict it and some of its contemporary trappings.

### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched this edition of the series. It acknowledged that some of the subjects explored by the animation were unsettling and would not have been to everyone's taste. However, it took the view that the cartoon format served to distance the subject matter and lessen the possible offence. The Panel considered that, when broadcast late at night, on a minority channel and preceded by a clear warning, the content was unlikely to have exceeded the expectations of the majority of viewers. The complaint was not upheld.

*Not upheld*

CN 11950

## Richard and Judy

Channel 4, 23 July 2003, 1700-1800

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### *The Complaint*

Three viewers complained about this programme. One complained about a racist comment and two about sexual content.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

Channel 4 said that Richard and Judy was its flagship daytime chat show which had been transmitted since November 2001. The programmes contained a variety of items ranging from discussions on topical matters of public interest to celebrity interviews.

The broadcaster said that the programme contained an item about some research which had been conducted in America which indicated that women tend to lie about the number of sexual partners they had had. The item discussed the implications of the research and the reasons for the tendency which it revealed. The item was one of legitimate public interest and, whilst treated in a relatively light-hearted manner, it was nonetheless serious in content. The programme genuinely explored the question of why it seems that double standards apply to men and women in their sexual behaviour.

Far from encouraging any form of promiscuity, the item, and the research itself, indicated that multiple sexual partners for women was frowned upon socially as being an indication of unsuitability as a partner. The reference to the large number of partners of a male journalist served to highlight the double standards which society applied to men and women.

Channel 4 said that the comment by Paul O'Grady that he was married to a Portuguese lesbian was a fact. It was explained that he married her some 15 years ago as she was a friend and she had been put under pressure from her family to get married.

The comment about an asylum seeker from Dover was made by Richard Madeley to a contestant on a quiz. The contestant, however, did not hear the comment and Richard Madeley was forced to explain it saying he 'was cracking a weak joke'. The broadcaster said that it was not a racist comment and was merely, as acknowledged, a weak joke, a play on words referring to the fact that Dover was a principal reception point for many asylum seekers.

### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched this edition of the daytime entertainment programme, noting the various comments made throughout the show. The Panel took the view that none of the comments, which were mild and inexplicit, were likely to have caused widespread offence to the majority of the audience, and had not exceeded acceptable boundaries for the time of transmission. The complaints were not upheld.

*Not upheld*

CN 11838.3

## News

BBC News 24, 23 March 2003, 1530

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### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained about distressing images of captured American soldiers.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

The BBC said that the images of captured American soldiers were first broadcast by Iraqi Television. The decision to show them subsequently was not taken lightly. The presenter said that Al Jazeera was showing "interviews" with captured American soldiers and continued "...there are just coming in to us." In fact senior editorial managers thought carefully before showing these pictures. The soldier who was interviewed was clearly uninjured and was doing well in trying to cope with the poor English of the interrogator. A second shot of a man lying down was so brief that it was impossible to tell anything about him, but examination of the untransmitted material clearly showed that he was alive.

The BBC added that it believed that reporting how prisoners of war were being treated was an entirely legitimate part of war coverage. The Iraqi TV footage was of US service personnel being questioned in front of television cameras, the cameras were not simply observing events but were an integral part of what happened. What viewers saw, therefore, was an example of the kind of brutal treatment of individuals for propaganda purposes that the former Iraqi regime had always been identified with.

### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched this news item, noting the footage of an interview with a captured American soldier, and brief images of another lying down. The Panel considered that the images, which were already in the public domain, were in the public interest because they clearly showed how the methods employed by the Iraqi military in then treatment of their prisoners. They were also unlikely to have exceeded the expectations of the majority of the audience of this dedicated news channel. The complaint was not upheld.

*Not upheld*

CN 11207

## Big Brother

Channel 4, 30 May 2003, 2030-2100

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### *The Complaint*

A viewer complained about nudity before the Watershed.

### *The Broadcaster's Statement*

Channel 4 said that the scene complained of occurred in the roundup which highlighted the first week's events. The presenter introduced and narrated a light-hearted summary, which included the housemates entering the house, losing the weekly task, John watering the garden and a game of charades. It was during the game of charades that Ray dropped his trousers in order to give his fellow housemates a clue about the film title he wanted them to guess.

Channel 4 said that the presenter's commentary ('Day 7, and it's word games...that'll be The Full Monty then') as well as the context of the shot within the roundup, made it clear that it was light-hearted and comic rather than salacious.

### *The Commission's Finding*

A Standards Panel watched this item in the edition of the 'reality' game show. It noted a brief shot of one of the housemates pulling his trousers down during a game of charades and showing his bottom. The Panel took the view that the brief and inexplicit scene was unlikely to have caused widespread offence to the regular audience and had not exceeded acceptable boundaries for the time of transmission. The complaint was not upheld.

*Not upheld*

CN 11621

**Servants**

BBC1, 10 April 2003, 2100-2200

***The Complaint***

Two viewers complained about this programme. Both complained of sexual content, whilst one also objected to swearing.

***The Broadcaster's Statement***

The BBC said that this series was a post-Watershed treatment of life and love in the servants' quarters of an early Victorian country house and was described in the pre-transmission announcement as 'racy'. Pre-broadcast publicity and programme billings also made clear the series frank approach to its subject matter. The attitude of the servants towards their employers was characterised by a marked contrast. Whilst appearing to show respect for their 'betters' in their dealings with them, behind their backs they told tales, spread scandal and fomented intrigue.

***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched this opening episode of the new drama. It acknowledged that the content would not have been to everyone's taste but noted that much of the sexual content had been implied, rather than explicit and that the language used had been appropriate in the context. The Panel took the view that, in the context of this dramatisation of 'life below stairs', broadcast after the Watershed, the content had not exceeded that acceptable. The complaints were not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 11337.2

**Velvet Soup**

BBC2, 3 June 2003, 2200-2230

***The Complaint***

Two viewers complained about offensive content.

***The Broadcaster's Statement***

The BBC said that the sheer unlikeliness of the scenarios presented in the programme, which had been billed as "adult humour", had done much to reduce their potential to offend. In the tradition of "Monty Python", the element of improbability was intrinsic to the humour and consistent with its generally surreal nature.

***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched the programme and noted its surreal flavour. It considered that the sketches in question were unlikely to have caused offence to the majority of the audience for this programme broadcast on a minority channel well after the Watershed. The complaints were not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 11609.2

### **Iraq: Whose Country is it Anyway?**

BBC2, 22 June 2003, 1915-2000

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#### ***The Complaint***

Two viewers complained about distressing content.

#### ***The Broadcaster's Statement***

The BBC said that the incident in question had provided a vivid illustration of the lawlessness in Baghdad. In neither the street nor the hospital sequences had there been any focus on the man's injuries or suffering; viewers had seen blood on his clothing but the camera had pulled back from the operating table just before it became clear that the efforts to save him were in vain.

The BBC said that the programme showed this incident and the effect on the man's family in order to illustrate the reality of daily life in Baghdad. Viewers would not have wanted or expected to be shielded from the impact of a programme with a reputation for pulling no punches in a way acceptable for early evening transmission.

#### ***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched the programme, which examined the position in post-war Iraq. It took the view that the incident had been depicted in order to bring home the reality of life in Baghdad and that it had not exceeded acceptable boundaries for a serious current affairs programme of this nature broadcast on a minority channel in the early evening. The complaints were not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 11685.2

### **Mike Dickin**

TalkSPORT, 26 June 2003, 1000-1300

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#### ***The Complaint***

A listener complained about racism.

#### ***The Broadcaster's Statement***

Talk Sport said that the item was in the wake of the deaths of 6 British Military Policemen who were sent to liberate, but were murdered in cold blood by a 300 strong mob inside a police station in Iraq. Despite his passionate view the presenter allowed listeners to take opposing views. Dickin was quite within his rights to describe the mob that killed soldiers as savages and his rant in no way bordered on racism.

#### ***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel listened to the programme noting the complaint and the broadcaster's statement. The Panel took the view that in the context of this well established programme the presenter's comments on the issue, which had been balanced by callers, were unlikely to have caused widespread offence. The complaint was not upheld.

***Not upheld***

CN 11711

## **I'm a Celebrity-Get Me Out of Here!**

ITV1, 28, 29, 30 April & 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12 May 2003, 2000-2100, 2030-2135 & 2100-2200

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### ***The Complaint***

Forty-nine viewers complained about cruelty to animals. Eight viewers complained about strong language.

### ***The Broadcaster's Statement***

Granada Television said that during the series the production team was careful to ensure that any strong language used in the pre-recorded elements was suitable for the time of transmission. All the contestants had been made aware that during the live broadcast sections of the ITV1 show they should refrain from swearing, particularly when the episode was transmitted before the Watershed. Most episodes commenced after the Watershed. Only two of the shows complained about were scheduled before the Watershed. In the programme broadcast on 8 May, the use of strong language occurred during a live interview between the presenters and a contestant before the Watershed. This was only minutes after the contestant had been voted out of the camp and was taking place at just before 6am in the morning Australian time. It was an emotional moment for her and she was both physically and mentally tired. The contestant had made some attempt to voice the 'fuck' sotto voce. However, Granada, accepted that the word was clearly audible and was not appropriate before the Watershed and apologised for the offence caused to viewers.

The complaints about the other programme that commenced pre-Watershed, (10 May) related to the announcement that preceded the programme. The announcement was: '...it's live, so there may be some strong language'. With a live programme it is impossible to predict with certainty whether there would be any strong language and the announcement was clear and specific. There was no strong language during the live broadcast sections of the show (and the strong language was effectively bleeped out of the pre-recorded sections). The other complaints about language related to post-Watershed shows. These commenced with a clear announcement that viewers should expect strong language. A lot of strong language was bleeped from these shows. None of the swear words used had sexual origins.

With regards to the complaints relating to the use of insects and animals in the 'bush tucker trials', the broadcaster said that the trials were a key feature of the series. In the trial, the nominated celebrity was required to submit to a gruelling challenge, whereby the celebrity's squeamishness and endurance was tested to the extreme, in order to win food for the group. Professional animal handlers were on site for each trial. Every trial was carefully tested and developed in consultation with the Australian RSPCA.

### ***The Commission's Finding***

A Standards Panel watched this edition of the programme, noting the 'bush trucker trials' involving insects and the use of strong language. It noted that the 'bush trucker trials', included foodstuffs that were readily available in that environment and considered that the content was unlikely to have exceeded the expectations of the majority of viewers. Turning to the complaints about swearing, with the exception of the edition of 8 May, the Panel considered that the language was unlikely to have caused widespread offence as the strongest was either bleeped or preceded by a warning and broadcast post-Watershed. These complaints were also not upheld.

With reference to 8 May, the Panel noted the broadcaster's apology and subsequent action and agreed that it was inappropriate to proceed with further consideration of the complaints.

***Not upheld*** CN 11385.26/11388.9/11389.10/  
11405.2/ 11406/11450.2/11455/11471.2/11504.4

## Complaints concerning standards

The complaints summarised below were not upheld and no statement was required from the broadcaster. Complaints may not be upheld because the content was considered likely to be within the expectations of the audience for the type of programme; or the programme was appropriately labelled or scheduled, or the content was deemed acceptable within the context in which it was broadcast.

CN 9796	<b>Sara Cox</b> offensive content	BBC Radio1	20.08.02	0700
CN 9820	<b>Wasted: 4X4 Reports</b> racist content	BBC1	19.08.02	1930
CN 9836	<b>Wrestling</b> inappropriate violent, sexual and offensive content	Sky One	29.08.02	1000
CN 10618	<b>Billy Sparkles Showbiz Circus</b> distasteful Humour	BBC Radio Trent	10.01.03	0600
CN 10799	<b>Real Sex</b> sexual content	Five	29.01.03	2315
CN 10815	<b>Coronation Street</b> sexual content and issue of abortion	ITV1	03.02.03	1930
CN 10823	<b>Coronation Street</b> sexual content	ITV1	02.02.03	1930
CN 10895	<b>Living The Dream: <i>Hotel by the Sea</i></b> swearing	BBC2	11.02.03	2100
CN 11070	<b>How to Rob a Bank</b> glamorising criminality	Channel 4	10.03.03	2100
CN 11086	<b>Farscape: <i>Bad Timing</i></b> violent content	BBC2	10.03.03	1845
CN 11107	<b>The News Quiz</b> sexual innuendo	BBC Radio 4	14.03.03	1830
CN 11118	<b>DoubleTake</b> offence to public figures & swearing	BBC2	17.03.03	2130
CN 11174	<b>Live Floor Show</b> offensive content	BBC2	22.03.03	2355
CN 11189	<b>Channel 4 News</b> human suffering	Channel 4	24.03.03	1900
CN 11204 11251	<b>The People's Book of Records</b> animal cruelty & bodily Functions	Channel 4	28.03.03 03.04.03	2145 2345
CN 11213	<b>EastEnders</b> disturbing content	BBC1	28.03.03	2000
CN 11294	<b>Drama on 3 - <i>Mnemonic</i></b> swearing	BBC Radio 3	13.04.03	1830
CN 11300	<b>Bubble Boy</b> sexual content	Sky Movies Max	28.03.03	2000



CN 11306	<b>SM:TV Live</b> irresponsible content.	ITV1	12.04.03	0925
CN 11311	<b>Lenny Henry in Pieces</b> offensive content and swearing	BBC1	11.04.03	2100
CN 11412	<b>Guardian</b> swearing	Sky Movies Max	01.05.03	2015
CN 11428	<b>Dick and Dom in da Bungalow</b> exploitation of a child	CBBC	27.04.03	0900
CN 11438	<b>Rockbitch</b> sexual content and language	Five	07.05.03	2340
CN 11560	<b>Back to the Future Part II</b> swearing	ITV1	25.05.03	1615
CN 11578	<b>Trust Me, I'm a Teenager</b> swearing	Channel 4	27.05.03	2100
CN 11615	<b>Holby City: <i>Seasons in the Sun</i></b> inappropriate scenes	BBC1	27.05.03	2000
CN 11649	<b>Lunchtime with Degsy</b> racist content	Century 105.4 FM	20.06.03	1300
CN 11678	<b>The Bill</b> depiction of suicide	ITV1	19.06.03	2000
CN 11681	<b>SPORT on 5</b> profanity	BBC Radio 5	13.06.03	1900
CN 11686	<b>Advertisement for IPA Bitter</b> sexist content	ITV1	June 2003	various
CN 11689	<b>Trailer for Wimbledon Tennis Championships</b> sexual innuendo	BBC1/2	16.06.03	various
CN 11712	<b>EastEnders</b> sexual content	BBC1	26.06.03	1930
CN 11713	<b>Jono and Harriet</b> racist content.	Heart 106.2 FM	27.06.03	0600
CN 11727	<b>Rise</b> offensive content	Channel 4	30.06.03	0655
CN 11771	<b>Fortysomething</b> sexual content	ITV1	06.07.03	2100
CN 11788	<b>Tony and Jo in the Morning</b> inappropriate swearing	Century 105 FM	16.07.03	0600
CN 11790	<b>Summer of Sam</b> swearing	ITV1	12.07.03	2215
CN 11796 11829	<b>EastEnders</b> violent content	BBC1	17.07.03 20.07.03	1930 1210

## Complaints concerning standards

CN 11803	<b>Juliet Morris</b> offensive opinion poll	BBC Radio 5 Live	21.07.03	0900
CN 11810	<b>Porn: a Family Business</b> sexual content	Channel 4	10.07.03	2315
CN 11828	<b>Dead Ringers</b> offensive content	BBC2	21.07.03	2100
CN 11835	<b>Bo' Selecta!</b> offensive humour & sexual content	Channel 4	18.07.03	2315
CN 11845	<b>The Bill</b> sexual content	ITV1	23.07.03	2000
CN 11852	<b>Nobody Likes a Smartass</b> offensive language	BBC2	28.07.03	1800
CN 11859	<b>Under the Knife with Miss Evans: <i>Incontinence</i></b> disturbing content	Channel 4	14.07.03	2310
CN 11861	<b>Sex Tips For Girls</b> encouragement of illegal behaviour	Channel 4	23.07.03	2310
CN 11862	<b>The Wayans Brothers</b> racist content	Trouble TV	24.07.03	1530
CN 11868	<b>V Graham Norton</b> offensive content	Channel 4	25.07.03	2305
CN 11870 11886	<b>Big Brother</b> swearing and inappropriate content	Channel 4	25.07.02	2200
CN 11872	<b>America Beyond the Colour Line: <i>Black Hollywood</i></b> racist content	BBC2	27.07.03	1910
CN 11873	<b>BBC News</b> disturbing images	BBC1	24.07.03	2200
CN 11880	<b>They Think its All Over</b> sexual Innuendo	BBC1	13.03.03	2130
CN 11882	<b>Rogue Traders: Where are They Now</b> racist content	BBC1	15.07.03	1900
CN 11885	<b>Panorama: <i>Asylum</i></b> racist content	BBC1	23.07.03	2100
CN 11887	<b>The Official Chart Show with Wes</b> sexual content	BBC Radio 1	27.07.03	1600
CN 11888	<b>Dead Ringers</b> offensive content	BBC2	28.07.03	2100
CN 11893	<b>Nobody Likes a Smartass</b> swearing	BBC2	29.07.03	1800

CN 11904	<b>Don McLean Says Good Morning Sunday</b> swearing	BBC Radio 2	03.08.03	0700
CN 11905	<b>Fighting the War: <i>The Occupation of Iraq</i></b> swearing	BBC2	27.07.03	2100
CN 11914	<b>Home and Away</b> sexual content	Five	25.07.03	1800
CN 11925	<b>Asylum: You the Judge</b> violent content	BBC1	23.07.03	2000
CN 11936	<b>Primary Colors</b> swearing	BBC1	03.08.03	2215
CN 11937	<b>That'll Teach'Em</b> exploitation of children	Channel 4	05.08.03	2100
CN 11940	<b>T4: Popworld</b> inappropriate sexual content	Channel 4	31.07.03	0900
CN 11948	<b>The Beach</b> swearing	BBC1	09.08.03	2100
CN 11951	<b>River City</b> homosexual content	BBC1 Scotland	07.08.03	2000
CN 11953	<b>Roger Roger : <i>Thank God It Wasn't Boat Race Day</i></b> swearing	BBC1	03.08.03	2100
CN 11960	<b>The Naughtiest of TV's Naughtiest Blunders</b> swearing	ITV1	04.08.03	2310
CN 11962	<b>Drive Time</b> offensive remarks	105 Century	13.08.03	1520
CN 11970	<b>Eyes Down</b> profanity & disability	BBC1	15.08.03	2100
CN 11971	<b>Trisha</b> offensive content	ITV1	15.08.03	0925
CN 11982	<b>The Arts Show</b> Racist content	BBC Radio Scotland	20.08.03	1800
CN 11983	<b>Gods in the Sky</b> violent content	Channel 4	17.08.03	2000
CN 11986	<b>The Bill</b> sexual Activity	ITV1	20.08.03	2000
CN 11988	<b>SM:TV Live</b> irresponsible content and sexual innuendo	ITV1	23.08.03	0925
CN 11992	<b>Monkey Dust</b> sexual content	BBC2	14.08.03	2320

## Complaints concerning standards

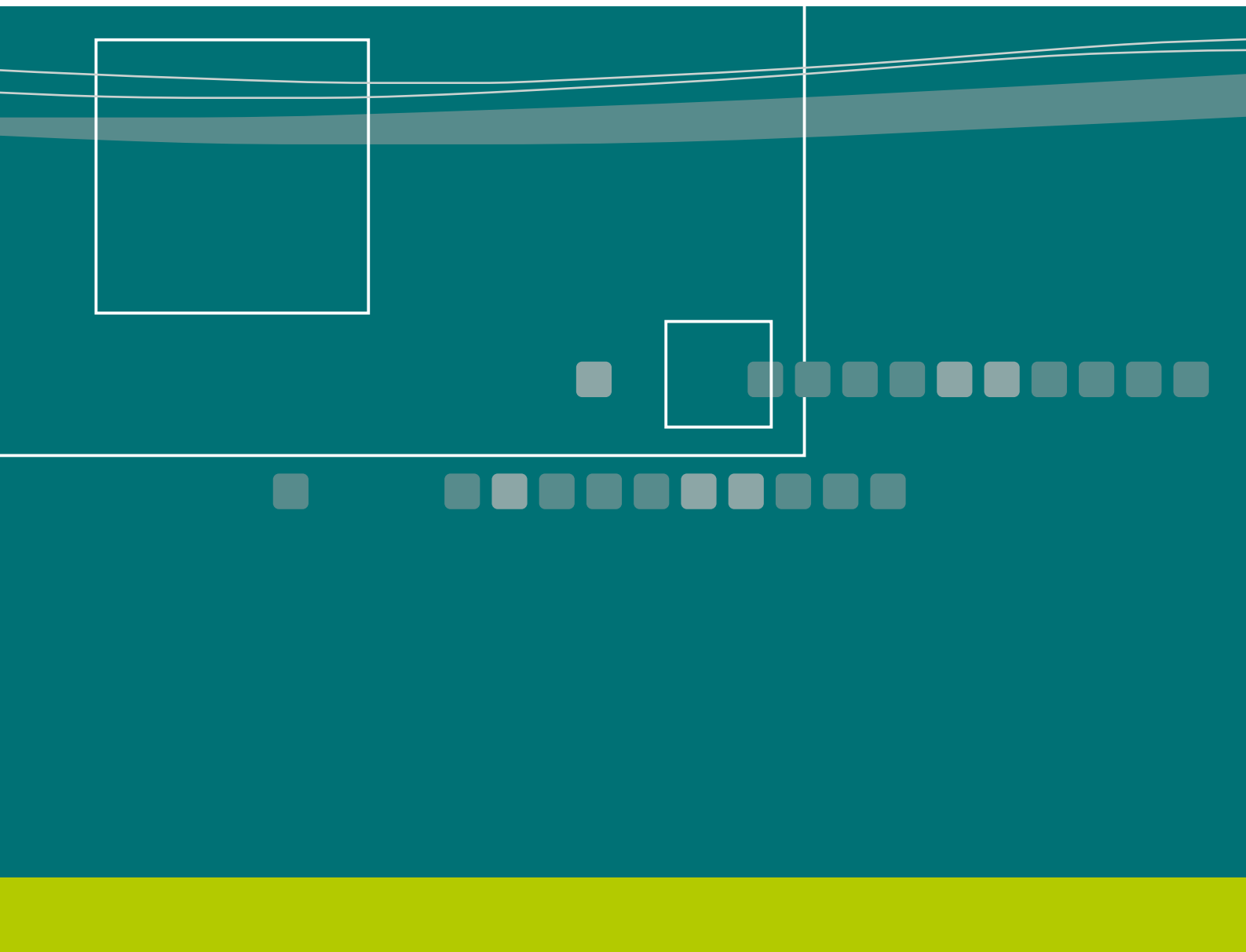
CN 11994 12037	<b>Trailer for Lapdance Island</b> sexual and offensive content	E4 Channel 4	various	various
CN 12006	<b>100 Greatest TV Characters</b> swearing	Channel 4	25.08.03	2100
CN 12007	<b>The Message</b> sexual content	BBC Radio 4	22.08.03	1630
CN 12019	<b>My New Best Friend</b> inappropriate content.	Channel 4	22.08.03	2330
CN 12020	<b>Takeshi's Castle</b> racist and sexist content	Challenge TV	18.08.03	1830
CN 12021	<b>Outside: <i>Naked</i></b> nudity, swearing and simulated sex.	Channel 4	20.08.03	2345
CN 12024	<b>Five News</b> distressing content	Five	26.08.03	1900
CN 12025	<b>P D James's Death In Holy Orders</b> inappropriate violent content and nudity	BBC1	24.08.03	2030
CN 12038	<b>My Wife and Kids</b> irresponsible content	Trouble	29.08.03	1630
CN 12043	<b>The Mitchell and Web Sound</b> offensive remarks	BBC Radio 4	28.08.03	1830
CN 12047	<b>Breakfast</b> distressing images.	BBC1	02.09.03	0600
CN 12051	<b>Trailer for The Villa</b> sexual content	Sky One	26.08.03	1724
CN 12067	<b>BBC News</b> disturbing Content	BBC1	03.09.03	2200
CN 12068	<b>Newsnight</b> disturbing Content	BBC2	03.09.03	2230
CN 12071	<b>News</b> offensive content	Sky News	11.09.03	1230
CN 12072	<b>Channel 4 News</b> racist reporting	Channel 4	09.09.03	1900
CN 12082	<b>Absolutely Fabulous: <i>Gay</i></b> religious offence	BBC1	09.09.03	2100
CN 12084	<b>Never Mind The Buzzcocks</b> offensive remark.	BBC2	08.09.03	2100
CN 12086	<b>Infamous Fives: <i>Five have an Insane Relationship</i></b> offence to a public figure	Channel 4	04.09.03	2345
CN 12087	<b>EastEnders</b> animal cruelty	BBC1	12.09.03	2000

CN 12088	<b>Porn: a Family Business</b> sexual activity	Channel 4	11.09.03	2310
CN 12096	<b>Morning Glory With Pete and Geoff</b> offensive incitement to break David Blaine's will	Virgin Radio	30.10.03	0600
CN 12105	<b>Jonathan Ross</b> offensive humour	BBC Radio 2	13.09.03	1000
CN 12106	<b>Coronation Street</b> substance abuse	ITV1	14.09.03	1930
CN 12107	<b>QI</b> sexual innuendo	BBC2	11.09.03	2200
CN 12109	<b>My Parents are Aliens</b> inappropriate profanity	ITV1	17.09.03	1630
CN 12116	<b>Live Football</b> condoning violence	Sky Sports	21.09.03	1500
CN 12117	<b>Canterbury Tales: The Wife of Bath</b> sexual content	BBC1	18.09.03	2100
CN 12119	<b>Top of the Pops</b> sexually explicit content	BBC1	12.09.03	1930
CN 12122	<b>Holiday - You Call the Shots</b> offensive content	BBC1	15.09.03	1900
CN 12123	<b>Quo Vadis</b> violence pre-Watershed	BBC2	13.09.03	1610
CN 12130	<b>Breaking the Silence: Special Report by John Pilger</b> sensationalist, anti American reporting	ITV1	22.09.03	2245
CN 12136	<b>BBC News</b> offensive content and swearing	BBC1	21.08.03	1300
CN 12151	<b>Trailer for Casualty</b> excessive depiction of injuries	BBC1	09.09.03	1900
CN 12155	<b>Return to Jamie's Kitchen</b> swearing	Channel 4	23.09.03	2100
CN 12164	<b>Looney Tunes</b> violent content	BBC1	27.09.03	0805
CN 12174	<b>Peep Show</b> swearing	Channel 4	19.09.03	2235
CN 12178	<b>Kenyon Confronts: Shopping For Terror</b> irresponsible content	BBC1	01.10.03	1930
CN 12183	<b>Dick and Dom in da Bungalow</b> inappropriate sexual innuendo	BBC1	04.10.03	0900

## Complaints concerning standards

CN 12187	<b>GMTV</b> violent content	ITV1	28.09.03	0600
CN 12188	<b>Eyes Down</b> offensive content	BBC1	03.10.03	2130
CN 12196	<b>Life of Grime</b> disturbing content and animal cruelty	BBC1	07.10.03	2100
CN 12197	<b>Infested: <i>Under Your Skin</i></b> frightening content	ITV1	07.10.03	1930
CN 12202	<b>Patrick Kielty Almost Live</b> offensive content	BBC1	25.07.03	2235
CN 12205	<b>BBC News</b> irreverent comments	BBC1	07.10.03	2200
CN 12213	<b>Jonathan Ross</b> offensive remarks about pop artists' death	BBC Radio 2	04.10.03	1000
CN 12215	<b>Trailer for CBBC</b> sexual innuendo	CBBC	29.07.03	1000
CN 12237	<b>Trailer for Silent Witness</b> inappropriate disturbing content	BBC1	10.10.03	2000
CN 12239	<b>Casualty: <i>Against Protocol</i></b> nudity	BBC1	11.10.03	2015
CN 12260	<b>Henry VIII</b> violent content	ITV1	19.10.03	2100
CN 12261	<b>Have I got News For You</b> offensive comments	BBC2	18.10.03	2240
CN 12262	<b>BBC News</b> racist content	BBC1	15.10.03	1800





Broadcasting Standards Commission  
7 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JS

t: 020 7808 1000  
f: 020 7233 0397  
e: [bsc@bsc.org.uk](mailto:bsc@bsc.org.uk)  
w: [www.bsc.org.uk](http://www.bsc.org.uk)