

6th November 1984

Christine Pointer  
Principal Assistant Librarian  
Leisure  
Essex County Council  
County Library  
Goldlay Gardens  
Chelmsford CM2 0EW

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your letter of 25th October, although the financial situation seems no better at your end than it is at ours.

As you've recalled, I did have doubts about the sale of Arts Council films to Public Libraries for home-loan purposes. Your point about it increasing public access is well taken but there are other problems. In summary, two concerns worry us. One is the question of rights clearance, particularly in relation to the media unions and the other is the question of the effect that the Video Recordings Act will have.

In effect, we are not getting involved in home distribution on video at all for the time being. This is why the Video Access Library model is still the one we prefer to pursue in general.

What I must say, I think, is that the matter will have to be put into abeyance for the time being. Neither our policy nor our financial position enables any other choice to be made at present. I'm very keen not to lose the opportunity that Southend Library offers and I hope you'll be able to bear with me for a while. In the meantime, I'd be grateful if you could confirm whether the original proposal we discussed is still of interest and if any of the costs could be met by Essex County Library Service.

Best wishes,

Rodney Wilson  
Film Officer