



The Scottish
Parliament

CATHY JAMIESON

02 NOV 2005

MIN FOR JUSTICE

Cathy Jamieson MSP
Minister for Justice
Scottish Executive
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Ref: DT/02.11.2005

Please use this reference
number on all correspondence

2 November 2005

Dear Cathy,

POSSESSION OF EXTREME PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL

I have received a constituency letter regarding your consultation on the possession of extreme pornographic material.

Can you please give a response to the points my constituent raises in the attached letter?

Thank you, I look forward to your reply.

Yours Sincerely,

Iain Smith MSP
Scottish Liberal Democrat, North East Fife

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Note: Please use the above reference number on all correspondence and reply to the parliamentary office address in this instance.

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27th October 2005

Dear Mr Smith

CONSULTATION ON THE POSSESSION OF EXTREME PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL

I take this opportunity in writing to you in respect of the above and of my deep concerns.

Firstly, I believe that these proposals have been drafted in a knee jerk response to what was a very high profile sex crime case (Jane Longhurst). This in itself is wrong, but the proposals, as they stand, could easily result in thousands of ordinary citizens risking a criminal conviction, a jail sentence and being put on a sex offenders register for little more than practising their consensual sexuality. I speak not of the bestiality, necrophilia or non consensual violence, but of those who practice totally consensual BDSM (Bondage, Dominance, Submission, Sadism, Masochism).

The proposed legislation would outlaw images of acts between consenting adults, including acts that the courts have upheld to be legal, and not the place of the government to be involved in.

There is no evidence suggesting that consensual violent images cause murder or sexual related crime, yet there is a vast body of evidence showing that pornography actually lowers the rate of sex crimes in society. But even if there was any evidence, it seems that this is tantamount to punishing all men due to one man raping a woman, or sending all gay men to prison due to one gay rape.

One of the basic arguments behind the legislation is that violent pornography encourages copycat behaviour, although in the consultation they clearly admit they have no evidence for this. It cannot be fair or right in our society to discriminate against any sexual minority for any reason, let alone without any supporting evidence.

Whilst you may not agree or sympathise with this BDSM lifestyle, you must certainly believe that we have a right to respect of our diversity and our own

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sexuality. The vast majority of people within the BDSM lifestyle are sane, normal people and I do not believe these people should be penalised because of one person. Is this not the same as penalising all men because of one rape?

I urge you not to back the proposals.

Yours sincerely

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