



BECKMANN HOME VIDEO

Bibliotekstilsynet	sagsn 20
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Our Ref: MJS/PMW

15th April, 1988

Mr. Jes Petersen,
Deputy Director,
Ministry of Cultural Affairs,
and Communication,
Directorate for Public Libraries,
Nyhaven 31 E, 3.
DK-1051 COPENHAGEN K,
Denmark.

Dear Mr. Petersen,

Thank you for your letter dated 24th February, 1988. I apologise for not answering sooner but I have been away skiing in France.

We are in correspondence with 5 of your public lending libraries over the possible purchase of videos, namely:-

1. Danmarks, Biblioteksskole, Aalborg
2. Arhus Kommunes Biblioteker, Risskov
3. Herning Central bibliotek, Herning
4. Herlev Bibliotekerne, Herlev
5. Esbjerg Bibliotek, Esbjerg

In answer to the various points raised in your letter:-

1. Library Lending

In the U.K. this means public lending libraries and would exclude school libraries where the video is to be used for the classroom. However, it includes school libraries where the video is seen by only one person at a time. (See 2. below). It would also include research libraries.

2. Whether the titles are cleared for copyright purposes for group viewing and for library lending for Denmark.

I cannot be categoric about every title cleared for Danish viewing. The majority of the non-fiction titles are produced by small film producers and they probably have not even considered Denmark, specifically.

We had an order from Arhus Kommunes Biblioteker, for 8 videos on blues and country and western. The copyright holders had no objections to these videos being sold to Danish public libraries as they are presently sold to U.K. public libraries.

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I expect that this is the answer in most cases. The only grey area of copyright in the U.K. that is a problem is entitled 'Non-Theatric Third Party Group Viewing Rights'. This covers education both schools and universities, prisons, clubs, etc. where groups of people view the programme - such as a classroom of children. Only some of the tapes are cleared for this purpose. Having said that, the majority of tapes covering sport, arts, crafts, music, ballet, opera are all cleared for this purpose.

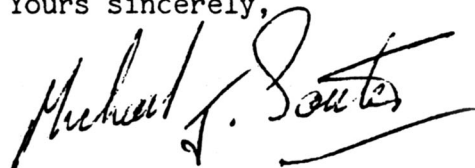
These are the type of videos that would be viewed by the groups of people. This restriction would exclude groups of people viewing the videos but would not exclude single individuals viewing the videos. Such is the confusion in this area.

I hope that the above has thrown some light on the present situation in the U.K. In our opinion, the difference in viewing is a nonsense and the sensible attitude is to make it the same wherever it is viewed.

I shall put your name on our list for future updates of our catalogue.

I hope that we can do business with your libraries and overcome these copyright problems.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael J. Souter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "M.J. Souter".

M.J. SOUTER.
Director.