

Mark Bunting
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southward Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

Friday 4th May 2007

Re: Channel 4 OFCOM consultation

Dear Sirs,

I am aware that Channel 4 is currently being reviewed by OFCOM with regard to its remit and as our company has worked closely alongside Film4 on numerous projects and ventures I strongly wish to voice my support for them and their contribution to the British film industry.

They have deservedly earned a reputation for co-financing, developing and producing some of the UK's most challenging and distinct cinematic output of recent years such as *Touching the Void*, *Enduring Love*, *Wasp*, *The Road to Guantanamo* and *Ghosts*.

Optimum Releasing has had very recent experience of working together with Film4 on the production and release of Shane Meadows's new film *This is England* which mirrored our successful partnership on his previous film *Dead Man's Shoes*. Their relationship with director Shane Meadows stretches back to *Once Upon a Time in the Midlands* in 2002 and they have consistently encouraged his unique filmmaking vision.

In the near future we shall be working on *Brick Lane*, co-produced by Film4. This is the debut feature film from director Sarah Gavron who garnered much attention and acclaim following her TV drama *This Little Life* in 2003 and she is a very exciting young British talent.

Film4 has made a most considerable contribution to our industry through participating in the new production scheme WARP X alongside Optimum, the UK Film Council, EM Media and Screen Yorkshire. This joint venture aims to revitalise the low-budget sector in British film and source a diverse range of filmmaking talent. Between 2006 and 2008 WARP X will make seven films which Optimum will distribute theatrically and on DVD and Channel 4 will take UK television rights. Essentially WARP X provides a much-

needed route into the UK film industry for filmmakers who may have experienced some success through their first feature film or through short filmmaking, but who need further structured support to make their next film a success. The financiers have agreed that creative talent should share in the gross revenue of any film once the commission and expenses of distributors and sales agents have been deducted.

I'm very happy with how Channel 4 and Film4 provide a public service to the UK TV and film sectors and hope that the OFCOM report sees this too.

Yours sincerely,

Will Clarke
CEO
Optimum Releasing