

Dear Yiannis

I write as part of the consultation process of the Ofcom phase 2 for the PSB review.

Mike Leigh, my business partner at Thin Man Films and myself feel it most important to ask you to consider various specific points which we feel are vital to the future and well being of Channel 4 at this crucial stage of your review.

Thin Man celebrated 20 years of truly independent filmmaking in July of this year and it is worth mentioning that Channel 4 helped to fund our very first film *Life Is Sweet*, the Channel have continued their support over the years, partnering with others on a number of our award winning films. Most recently through Tessa Ross they were the first to commit to *Happy-Go-Lucky*. They have also committed to our *Untitled 09* project for next year.

We have been fortunate indeed to have had a series of outstanding commissioning editors for film over this period all in their own way have proved strongly independent, fearless and committed; not pandering to what might be perceived as fashionable and temporal trends. These benefits come in no small part from the channel being publicly owned and not having to pander to the whims and fancies of those less focused.

As filmmakers you would expect us to support and single out film as an integral part of what Channel 4 does. We are very clear – Channel 4/Film4 has a unique voice – not just an interesting and diverse voice which is also true but it is unique and must be supported and nurtured.

Our film for next year is suffering in a reduction from funding and we accept that this is inevitable but without Channel 4's vital financial support, Thin Man would no longer be able to produce films. This uncertainty is debilitating and in these circumstances the lack of clarity is unsettling for other potential investors.

A clear and unambiguous line must be taken, and taken quickly, prevarication will cause upset and damage.

Finally we would like to point out that with the support of Channel 4 we have been able to start the careers of many people on both sides of the camera.

To date not one of our films has failed to garner a major acting award.

We also have an honourable tradition of bringing on and encouraging crew, the director Marc Munden, producers Graham Broadbent and Georgina Lowe as well as Josh Robertson, Lucy Bristow and a number of others have benefited from Channel 4's ability and courage to allow filmmakers to be both radical and brave.

The well being of this remarkable organization seems to be at stake and it must be secured with the aid of the fullest and most stable funding available.

Mike and I fully endorse what Channel 4 is seeking.

Yours sincerely

Simon