

April 28, 2009

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Via fax: 020 7981 3806

Dear Anthony,

We have recently been made aware of Ofsted's review of the current ITV compliance practises, in particular the relationship between Channel Television/STV/UTV and ITV.

Channel Television has independently represented ITV and complied a large number of programmes produced by Greenlit, most notably 44 hours of our major detective series "Foyle's War" which we have produced for ITV since 2000. Having Channel Television acting in an independent capacity from ITV has been essential to the continued success of this programme. Despite being a drama Foyle's War is very much drawn from historical fact and routinely deals with situations which for many members of the British public remain very sensitive and emotive. We have always aimed to be respectful of those who lived during the turbulent times of WW2. Channel Television truly understand this desire plus importantly the pressures and realities of production and have provided on many occasions a view on creative (usually script orientated) issues which could only be judged fairly by an organisation working independently of ITV.

We are therefore greatly concerned to hear that Channel Television's compliance role is under review. Independent productions must surely have freedom of choice on who fulfils the compliance role on a particular production, especially when the subject matter needs to be handled with respect and care.

I also find it particularly sad that Ofcom's action could put in jeopardy the very existence of Channel at a time when the television industry as a whole is already under threat on all sides from the current economic recession.

I urge you most strongly to reconsider. What we need at the current time is for the status quo to remain, not action to be taken which will inevitably cause further upheaval in such uncertain times.

Regards,

  
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