



Brighton & Hove

Brighton & Hove City Council
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove BN3 2LS

Cineworld/City Screen Enquiry
Competition Commission
Victoria House
Southampton Row
London, WC1B 4AD

Date: 24 May 2013

Ref: PM/LK

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing with regard to the review that I understand is being conducted by the Office of Fair Trading into the range of cinemas owned and operated by Cineworld.

I contacted your office by e-mail at the beginning of the week with regard the above, but an automated reply was received today informing that my e-mail had been returned 'undeliverable'.

My particular concern is to make a number of points, specifically about the Duke of York's Picturehouse operations in Brighton.

The Duke of York's runs two separate premises in Brighton, one of the cinemas being one of the oldest, if not the oldest, operating cinema in the country and the second being a set of brand new small scale screens run from a refurbished floor of a theatre building, Komedia.

The original Duke of York cinema building in Preston Circus, adjacent to the city's fire station, has iconic status with its beautiful old building sporting a comical pair of Beryl Cook type legs from the roof. The arthouse film offer here, with great coffee and cake to go with it, is well known and loved across the city and beyond. The new premises, Duke's at Komedia, has a more modern feel and a younger crowd for the same great programme that is just not available elsewhere of arthouse films and live screenings.

The Duke of York cinema has always been counted as a major cultural partner in the city with whom we work on a regular basis. This has not changed since the merger with Cineworld. The Duke of York cinemas take a key, local role in a number of the city's significant cultural events such as programming film for the Brighton Festival in May; being part of the Great Escape in May – a music industry led festival; the major player in Cinecity – our annual film festival now over 10 years old and many others throughout the year.

Most recently, the Duke of York's has been part of a very exciting partnership venture with ourselves, the University of Brighton and other cultural partners in the city in making a bid to Creative England to have an Audiences Hub here in Brighton. Of the 9 regions where these Hubs may be established, ours is the only one to contain the involvement of a commercial partner – and is strengthened by that cross fertilisation. The locally controlled structure of the Duke of York's makes that possible alongside the artistic credibility of its programming.

Continued overleaf/

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Brighton and Hove is a cultural city and we are known for the strength of our arts and events offer. The Duke of York cinemas are a very central and important part of that; fully integrated into the strong network of cultural partnerships here.

I would be happy to provide any further information to you should you require it.

Yours sincerely

Paula Murray
Assistant Chief Executive
Brighton & Hove City Council