

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Inquiry into the effectiveness of the broadcasting codes or practice.

Firstly let me thank you for providing the opportunity for everyone to voice his or her opinions on this matter. I would like to state that I am a 29-year-old male with 2 children 4 and a half and 2 and half.

Like most children their age they spend time watching the TV. Through carefully monitoring what they watch and showing an active interest in TV I am able to easily avoid shows that may feature coarse language, if by chance they are subjected to something that I don't want them repeating (not necessarily swearing) I explain to them that it would be unacceptable for them to repeat that, it is called active parenting some people should try it.

We have warnings at the start of each show about the contents of that show. Then after each commercial break there is a reminder in the bottom corner of the screen as to what warnings the show contains. With the advent of digital TV every time you change channel you are presented with a banner that contains the rating of the show, in some cases I have seen the warnings transpired into here as well. With everyone having to switch over to digital TV by the end of 2009 there should be little to no excuse for people to not know what rating a show is and what warnings are relevant to that show. I don't think we need to expand the warnings either the fact that something contains a Coarse Language warning should be enough of an indication that there will be some language that might not be tolerated by some viewers.

I have heard (recent media reports) that the processing time for complaints can be as long as 6 months. Whilst this does seem like a long time, on the other hand I would hate for the matters to be rushed and for an unfair outcome to be the result of trying to speed up the process.

In summary I think that the need for more stringent guidelines and censorship should not be considered. With some active interest and a little research we should be able to censor ourselves. We should be striving towards less censorship from the government and be able to make or own choices about what choose to watch for ourselves and for our kids. The classic line of "If you don't like it, don't watch it" has never been more prudent than right now.

Michael Brennan.