

DIRECTORS UK

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Paul Greengrass

10th April 2013

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Charles Sturridge

Alan Yentob
Creative Director
BBC
Room 102, Yalding House
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Dear Alan,

As you know, Directors UK has been having discussions with members about the use of film and digital media. In the course of this conversation we have been overwhelmed by complaints to us about the provision in the BBC's Technical Guidelines concerning delivery formats for HD which effectively ban the use of 16mm/Super 16mm film on HD Channels. Similar concerns have been expressed to us by a wide range of experienced industry practitioners – both creative and technical – including cinematographers, editors, visual effects houses and processing labs, who believe that reasoned and evidence-based arguments favouring a more flexible approach are being ignored.

It is our strong view that delivering the image to an audience is a key part the director's job and universal standards across all genres do not necessarily serve the best interests of the audience. We would therefore like to work with the BBC and other Broadcasters to encourage a more creative environment for the benefit of audiences, broadcasters and industry practitioners.

Simply put our contentions are:

1. 16mm transfer technology has developed over the past five years and the BBC's current policy on the use of Super 16mm should be reviewed.
2. Picture quality cannot be a solely expressed as an engineering standard and that creative considerations should be admitted.

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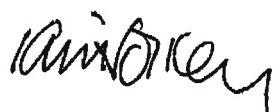
We therefore urge an immediate review of this aspect of the BBC's Technical Guidelines, to be conducted in a transparent and inclusive manner with appropriate participation from industry professionals, and for due weight to be given to creative as well as technical considerations.

Our joint aim should be to give a clear message to producers and commissioners that the BBC does not operate a ban on super 16mm for HD transmissions.

Yours sincerely,

The following members of Directors UK:

Michael Apted	Paul Greengrass
Richard Ayoade	David Yates
Alex Cox	Beeban Kidron
Terry Gilliam	Jane Campion
Jonathan Glazer	Terence Davies
Mike Hodges	Antonia Bird
Kevin Macdonald	Stephen Frears
Roger Michell	John Madden
Tony Palmer	Stephen Daldry
Alan Parker	Sam Mendes
Lynne Ramsay	Nic Roeg
Paul Weiland	Michael Caton-Jones
Susanna White	Steve McQueen
Leslie Woodhead	Mike Leigh
Edgar Wright	Ken Loach (also a member of BECTU)
Kenneth Branagh	
Eran Creevy	



IAIN SOFTLEY
Film Committee Chair



ANDREW CHOWNS
Chief Executive



CHARLES STURRIDG
Chairman