



John Adams
12 Stratford Grove Terrace
Heaton
Newcastle
NE6 5BA

1st October 93

Dear John,

If VAC is to survive beyond Mar 94, it desperately needs to campaign to persuade the Edinburgh District Council to re-write their **Video Funding Strategy Report** which was allegedly produced by yourself and sent out by Leslie Evans in January of this year. We have now been made aware of the fact that this report was subsequently adopted as Council policy. It basically recommends that funding is taken away from VAC and given to EFWT, VIP or EVTC. Our concern (which was first raised with Leslie Evans and Lynn Halfpenny at a meeting in January) at this is that we feel that the report grossly misrepresented the Video Access Centre. We approached Cllr Cardownie, Convener of the Recreation Committee, in April, again with no response. In the light of developments over the last few months, we now feel that it is also out of date.

The main areas in which we feel the Video Access Centre was misrepresented in the report (apart from generalisations on the "lack of direction" and that VAC was on the "point of collapse" are:

- i.) Training. The Video Access Centre provides the most accessible and affordable training in video equipment in Edinburgh. It runs a 3 hour edit course every day all year round (250 days a year!). No mention of the training role of the Video Access Centre was made in the report.
- ii.) Festivals/Screening. The Video Access Centre has in the past sponsored the Fringe Film and Video Festival and presently provide office space and office equipment for FFVF. Additionally, there was no mention of the regular annual screenings by the Video Access Centre of productions made at the Centre during the year.
- iii.) Recommendations. No mention of the Video Access Centre is made in the recommendations produced by yourself. It is particularly noticeable that no mention of VAC is made in the context of access when the Video Access Centre provides the only open access video equipment in Edinburgh.

In May the Video Access Centre was awarded a grant of £12,773 from the Foundation of Sport and Arts with which it has purchased 3 Super VHS cameras and edit suite. It has also been awarded an Urban Aid grant of £421,000 over 4 years for a new project called 'Young People Speak Out'. These developments have revitalised VAC and have increased its ability to cater to the needs of video makers in Edinburgh. Neither of these significant developments have been accounted for in the report, which I'm sure you agree should have implications for any long term policy planning for the District Council.

It has also concerned us that this report is already influencing funders. A funding application made by us to the Scottish Film Council was refused and it seemed to reflect concerns they had expressed about the image of VAC in the Adam's report, i.e. that we had no future.

I would like your comments on the report (enclosed) - do you feel that these comments and omissions on VAC's activities can be ascribed to yourself? We have informed Cllr Cardownie of EDC that many of our (now over 350) members have expressed concern at this report and if the District Council do not take account of the concerns mentioned in this letter, may feel it necessary to raise the issue themselves with their local councillors.

VIDEO ACCESS CENTRE

29 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3QN

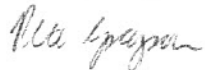
Telephone: 031 - 557 8211

Video Access Centre is recognised by Inland Revenue as a charity no. SC011607.

It receives financial support from Edinburgh District Council, Lothian Regional Council and the Scottish Film Council.

In all meetings and letters to the council we refer to the report as the Adams Report, and they have never suggested it was anything else. In fact, all the other video organisations in the city believe it was written by yourself. Was it? It would help us greatly, if you feel you have been misrepresented, that you put your comments in writing to Cllr Cardownie of the Recreation Committee at the City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh- and send us a copy too, which we would distribute to the other councillors and video organisations in the city.

Yours in desperation



Pete Gregson
Treasurer

PS Can you write a.s.a.p.?