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THE  TIMES

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Tuesday, May 21 | London | Max 16C



Sex gangs exposé

Published at 12:01AM, May 21 2013

The delays in showing a Channel 4 documentary demonstrate the lengths the police must go to in order to secure convictions of this type

Sir, In your excellent leading article ("[A Shameful Betrayal](#)", May 16) you stated: "A decade ago Channel 4 made a documentary on Asian men grooming white girls for sex in Bradford but withdrew it at the request of police."

Ten years ago the film-maker Anna Hall did indeed make a film, *Edge of the City*, for Channel 4 which first highlighted this phenomenon. With a local council election just a few weeks away, with the BNP threatening to gain significant support, and after race riots elsewhere in the north earlier in the year, the Chief Constable wrote to Channel 4 requesting that, in the interests of avoiding violence, the broadcast be postponed.

Channel 4 agreed to postpone broadcast until after the election. The film was then shown some weeks later, to widespread critical acclaim. At the time Channel 4 was the only national media outlet willing to confront this heinous crime, and remained a lone voice until Andrew Norfolk's superb coverage of the issue began in *The Times* some years later.

In 2010 Anna Hall gained access to Operation Chalice in Telford. True Vision was then commissioned by Channel 4 to make a film following the investigation, but with the collapse of the main Chalice case in 2011, all the material we had filmed had to remain sub judice. The film, *The Hunt for Britain's Sex Gangs*, can now be shown after the completion of the Chalice cases as reported last week.

It demonstrates the extraordinary lengths the police must go to in order to secure convictions of this type.

The Times, and Andrew Norfolk in particular, should be applauded. However, you will no doubt also wish to credit Anna Hall, who first highlighted this issues in 2004, and has now made three films on the subject, and Channel 4 for broadcasting them.

Brian Woods
Executive Producer, *Britain's Sex Gangs*, *The Hunt for Britain's Sex Gangs* (9pm, Thursday, Channel Four)
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