



Age Ratings You Trust

The Minutes of the 180th BBFC Board of Classification Meeting

Monday, 16 May, 2016

Present:

Patrick Swaffer	President
Alison Hastings	Vice President
Gerard Lemos	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Alexandra Evans (minutes)	Policy Director

Minutes of the previous meeting

1. The minutes were agreed. It was agreed that in the future, minutes should be circulated in draft form with the agenda for the next meeting. This will enable the minutes to be reviewed at the meeting rather than by email.

Action: Alexandra Evans

Referrals to the Board of Classification

2. The Board of Classification confirmed a written policy setting out when classification decisions should be referred to the Board. It was agreed all examiners and compliance officers would be briefed on the document.

Action: Alexandra Evans

The Commune

3. The Board of Classification confirmed the classification of *The Commune* at 15 with insight highlighting strong sex.

Protection of Children Act 1978

4. At its previous meeting, the Board requested a discussion of the way in which works submitted to the Board for classification are considered under the Protection of Children Act 1978 (and its Scottish and Northern Irish equivalents). Senior Examiner, Craig Lapper attended the meeting to explain the Board's obligations under the Acts and to show clips that had recently been considered as potentially indecent.
5. Under the Acts, it is illegal to make, distribute, show or possess indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of a child. This definition includes images contained within video content. A child is defined as a person under the age of 18. When charges are brought under the Acts, the question of whether an image is indecent or not is determined by a jury.
6. Although the issue does not arise frequently, the Board does receive works for classification that raise concerns that a child may have been featured in a sexual scenario. In most cases, the role of 'child' is played by an adult simply pretending to be under 18 but some works do feature actors who are under 18. In these

cases, the Board must consider whether the images are indecent under the Acts.

7. Given the central role of a jury in determining whether an image is indecent, the Board considered it important to understand whether society's view of what constitutes an indecent image of a child has changed particularly in the 'post-Savile' era. The Board agreed that it would benefit from further guidance on factors that should and should not be taken into account when considering a work that raises potential concerns under the Acts.
8. The Board agreed that it would review the way it applied the Acts and that this review should include obtaining an updated legal opinion. Alexandra Evans will facilitate the review and report back to the Board with recommendations for next steps.

Action: Alexandra Evans

Business Strategy

9. David Austin updated the Presidents on his strategic plans for the BBFC. DA has sent an email to all staff members setting out the key strands of his agenda and will be following up with an 'All Staff' briefing and Q&A session which will give staff the opportunity to raise questions and offer suggestions.
10. The Executive Leadership will now begin work on the Business Strategy 2017-19 for consideration by the Council of Management in July.

New Finance Director

11. The search is underway for a new BBFC Finance Director. First round interviews are now complete and candidates have been chosen to proceed to a second round. DA and Gerard Lemos will interview candidates with Council of Management Chair, Maggie Carver and Treasurer, Jon Teckman.

Policy

12. DA updated the Board on the Government's proposals for compulsory age verification for websites that contain pornographic content and the implementation of the Government's manifesto commitment to introduce age ratings for music videos shown online.

Virtual Reality

13. DA explained that we had started receiving queries from adult and home entertainment distributors about the classification of VR content, both on a statutory and best practice voluntary bases. We have told potential customers that we are ready to classify their linear VR content.

Date of next meeting:

Monday, 20 June 2016