



Age Ratings You Trust

196th BBFC Board of Classification Meeting

Wednesday 16 November 2017

Present:

Patrick Swaffer	President
Alison Hastings	Vice President
Gerard Lemos	Vice President (Remote Participation)
David Austin	Chief Executive
Ian Mashiah	Compliance Manager
Murray Perkins	Head of DEA
Amelia Erratt	DEA Officer
Sarah Connelly	DCMS (for DEA discussion)
Robert Henderson	DCMS (for DEA discussion)
David Miles (minutes)	Policy Director

Minutes of the previous meeting

1. The minutes were agreed.

Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising.

Trailers containing strong language

3. The Board viewed two trailers containing strong and very strong language - THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI and FATHER FIGURES. Both were classified at 15 following referral to the Chief Executive.
4. The Board agreed with the 15 classification and that the trailers should be included as stimulus material as part of the 2018 Classification Guidelines consultation to ascertain whether the public agreed that such depictions of strong and very strong language could be contained at 15 rather than at the adult category.

Action: Mr Miles to include the trailers as stimulus material for the upcoming Classification Guidelines.

THE ABYSS

5. In 1989, following advice from the RSPCA, the BBFC cut a sequence from THE ABYSS in which a rat is submerged in liquid and forced to take that liquid into its lungs. The film is currently available in an uncut and unrated

version on Netflix. Mr Mashiah showed the scene from The ABYSS for the consideration of the Board.

6. The issue for consideration was whether in the Board's view, the sequence contravened The Cinematograph Films (Animals) Act 1937. Specifically whether it was "organised or directed" for the purpose of the film in a way that involved cruelty to the rats (five of which were used in the sequence). The RSPCA's advice was that it did contravene the act.
7. The Board considered the legal test and concluded that it could not waive the entirety of the 1989 cut, but that the extent of the cuts could be reduced.

Action: Compliance Managers to create a new draft cut for consideration

Digital Economy Act

8. Ms Connelly and Mr Henderson from the DCMS joined the meeting to review progress on implementing the Digital Economy Act, prior to the anticipated designation of the BBFC as the Age Verification regulator.

AOB

7. None

Date of next meeting:

Monday 8 January 2018