



Age Ratings You Trust

192nd BBFC Board of Classification Meeting

Thursday 20 July 2017

Present:

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

Minutes of the previous meeting

1. The minutes were agreed.

Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising.

International co-operation

3. Mr Austin updated the meeting on recent discussions with classification bodies overseas on sharing best classification practices and on possible future partnerships. These discussions will, among other things, help inform our thinking around implementation of Part 3 of the Digital Economy Act, along with improving the best practice, voluntary regulation of VoD and SVoD content.
4. Mr Miles asked the Board to review recommendations on improving how the BBFC communicates classification information to families in particular, to ensure that those with responsibility for children, as well as children themselves, are able to take fully informed decisions as to the suitability of content when deciding what to watch.
5. The meeting proposed some modifications to the recommended approach. These will be made and Mr Miles confirmed that the next phase of this work would begin in September.
Action: Mr Miles will provide an update at the October Board meeting.
6. The Board discussed personal device security. It was agreed that Mr Miles would liaise with the Operations Department about providing dedicated BBFC personal devices.
Action: Mr Miles will circulate a proposal to the Board before the end of August, for consideration at the next meeting.
7. Compliance officer Sarah Peacock joined the meeting to present BBFC policy on the classification of sexualised imagery in anime, drawing on examples of content

classified at 12 and 15. The Board was content with the standards the BBFC was applying while recognising that certain aspects of anime made its classification far from straightforward. Mr Miles will contact experts in this area known to him in order to help the BBFC further develop its expertise in classifying particular content in this genre.

Action: Mr Miles will review and update current policy guidance in the light of findings.

8. Mr Perkins and Miss Erratt joined the meeting to update the Board on progress towards implementing Part 3 of the Digital Economy Act (DEA). The DEA team was engaging with key stakeholders (including Government) and working on draft guidance, as required by the legislation, with a view to ensuring that it is implemented as smoothly as possible from May 2018. Separately, the team expects that designation of the regulator will take place in autumn 2017.

Action: Mr Perkins will return to the Board in September for a substantive discussion on key implementation issues, including a fully independent appeals body and other regulatory guidance to be submitted to Government and laid before Parliament.

AOB

9. None

Date of next meeting:

Friday 8th September 2017