



Age Ratings You Trust

## 197<sup>th</sup> BBFC Board of Classification Meeting

Monday 8 January 2018  
3:00pm

### Present:

Patrick Swaffer	President
Alison Hastings	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Murray Perkins	Head of DEA
Amelia Erratt	DEA Officer
David Miles (minutes)	Policy Director

### Minutes of the previous meeting

1. The minutes were agreed.

### Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising.

### Apologies

3. Mr Lemos sent his apologies.

### Digital Economy Act

4. Mr Perkins and Ms Erratt updated the meeting. On 14 December 2017, the Government formally proposed that the BBFC be designated as the age verification regulator. They expect the Secretary of State's Guidance to be laid during the week commencing 8 January. Commercial Regulations are currently scheduled to be laid in March.

### The future of the Consultative Council

5. Following on from the 9 October Consultative Council meeting, it was agreed there would be a review of the Council's current role and future. The Council no longer fulfils the role for which it was set up in 1985 (as the Video Consultative Council – VCC). Its setting up was a response to a requirement by the then Home Secretary that the BBFC should be accountable not only to Parliament by means of its annual report, but also to the views of the 'wider public.' It was accepted in 1985 by the Home Secretary that the VCC satisfied that requirement. Since 1999, the BBFC has carried out regular large scale consultations, typically involving 10,000 members of the public. This research, rather than the VCC (latterly the CC) has been the BBFC's main means of

consulting and representing the views of the 'wider public' in our policies and classification decisions.

6. As part of that review, Mr Miles, the BBFC's Policy Director was tasked with consulting with members to get their thoughts and feedback. The majority accepted that bringing the Council to end was feasible and made good sense.

**Action:** Based on the feedback from Council members, the Board agreed to end the Council, subject to consulting the DCMS, and considering alternative, primarily bilateral, arrangements in terms of continued engagement with members.

### **Communicating with the public**

7. Mr Miles provided an update on the work around how the BBFC communicates with stakeholders, particularly with families, children and education professionals. Board members provided some additional comments on the proposed messages and will offer further thoughts before the next meeting. Overall, the Board considered that this stage of the work was near completion.

**Action:** Mr Miles to follow up with Board members on final feedback before signing off Stage 2 of the review.

### **International Cooperation**

8. Mr Austin updated the meeting on recent discussions with classification bodies overseas on sharing best classification practices and on possible future partnerships. These discussions continue and help inform and improve best practice, voluntary regulation of VoD and SVoD content.

### **AOB**

9. None

**Date of next meeting:** 16 February 2018