

BBFC Board of Classification Meeting

Wednesday 6 September 2023

Present

Natasha Kaplinsky	President
Murphy Cobbing	Vice President
Kamlesh Patel	Vice President
Dave Barrett	Deputy Chief Executive
David Austin	Chief Executive
Tom Cairns	Head of Business Services (for item 3)
Chris Davies	Compliance Manager (for items 4 and 5)
Jonny Goodman	Compliance Manager (for items 4 and 5)
Amanda Francis	Consultant (for item 6)
Matt Tindall	Senior Policy Officer (minutes)

Minutes of the previous meeting

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising.

Update on self-rating partnerships

3. Tom joined the meeting to brief the Board on progress towards establishing further self-rating partnerships to extend the use of BBFC age ratings on VoD and streaming services, in line with the Government's best-practice recommendation.

How to Have Sex

4. The Board discussed the classification of *How to Have Sex*, a British drama in which three teenage girls visit Crete for a wild summer holiday. There they meet a second group of teens, also from the

UK, one of whom rapes the central character. The Board carefully considered the relevant scenes in relation to the BBFC's strict guidelines on sexual violence, which state that at 15 'there may be strong verbal references to sexual violence but any depiction of the stronger forms of sexual violence, including rape, must not be detailed or prolonged.' The Board unanimously agreed that the scenes of sexual violence in *How to Have Sex* were defensible at 15 under the guidelines; they are brief and visually discreet, and the film engages with its theme in a responsible and sensitive way. The Board recognised that the film offered genuine value for older teenagers in its exploration of the issues of consent and sexual violence, and that to classify it 18 would arguably restrict it from the audience for whom it will have the most relevance. The Board agreed that the film should be classified 15, with the content advice 'sexual violence, strong language, sex, sex references, drug misuse'.

Guidelines consultation

5. Chris provided an update on the findings of the qualitative stage of the ongoing public consultation on the BBFC's Classification Guidelines. He confirmed that the quantitative stage of the project will commence soon, with publication of the updated guidelines set for Q1 2024.

Public Affairs

6. The Board discussed the BBFC's engagement with Government departments in relation to the draft Media Bill and the forthcoming review of how pornography is regulated in the UK.

AOB

7. There was no other business.

Date of next meeting: 28 September 2023