

BBFC Board of Classification Meeting

Thursday 21 April 2022

Present

Patrick Swaffer	President
Murphy Cobbing	Vice President
Kamlesh Patel	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Chris Davies	Compliance Manager
Edward Lamberti	Policy Manager
Matt Tindall	Senior Policy Officer (minutes)

Apologies

Dave Barrett	Deputy Chief Executive
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Minutes of the previous meeting

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising.

Forthcoming research

3. Edward updated the Board on plans for the publication of research exploring the risks and public policy responses associated with non-photographic images of child sexual abuse. The Policy team is currently in the process of briefing stakeholders on the project, and has met in recent weeks with organisations including Ofcom, the Internet Watch Foundation, the Home Office, the Children's Commissioner's Office, Barnardo's, Childnet and Internet Matters.

Online Safety Bill

4. Matt updated the Board on the Policy team's recent engagement with stakeholders regarding the Online Safety Bill.

Recent classification decisions

5. Chris shared a pair of clips from slasher sequel SCREAM, the fifth film in the long-running franchise, which was classified 18 for strong bloody violence. In the first clip, a masked killer slowly stabs a man through the neck. In the second, a frenzied stabbing is followed by a throat cutting and bloody gunshot impacts. The Board agreed that the detailed and sustained nature of the knife violence meant that the film was rightly classified at the adult category.
6. Chris also shared two edits of a trailer for upcoming comedy drama GOOD LUCK TO YOU, LEO GRANDE. The company submitted the first edit for advice, with a PG request, and the Compliance Managers suggested changes in order to achieve that rating. The objective of the changes was to obscure the nature of the relationship between the two central characters – a young male sex worker and his older, female client – which was fairly apparent within the first edit. The Board agreed that the changes were successful in achieving this aim, and that the revised version was appropriately classified at PG.

Reconsideration decisions

7. Finally, the Board watched a trailer for dark comedy ALL MY FRIENDS HATE ME. Desiring a 12A, the company had requested a reconsideration of the 15 rating initially granted. The BBFC's reconsideration procedure is free of charge and open to any distributor dissatisfied with the age rating of their content. The Board considered that the trailer's elements of horror and threat were suitably counterbalanced by comedy and that the trailer could, therefore, be defended at the company's preferred category of 12A.

AOB

8. David updated the Board on plans to repair the damage done to the BBFC's offices by a falling tree on Easter Sunday.
9. David also briefed the Board on his recent trip to Los Angeles and meetings with the MPA, Netflix, Sony and others.

Date of next meeting: 19 May 2022