

BBFC Board of Classification Meeting

Tuesday 9 May 2023

Present

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| Natasha Kaplinsky | President |
| Murphy Cobbing | Vice President |
| David Austin | Chief Executive |
| Faye Harcourt | Director, Marketing and Outreach (for item 2) |
| Wallis Seaton | Compliance & Education Officer (for item 3) |
| Siobhan Smedley-Wild | Finance Director (for item 4) |
| Matt Tindall | Senior Policy Officer (minutes) |

Apologies

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| Kamlesh Patel | Vice President |
| Dave Barrett | Deputy Chief Executive |

Matters arising

1. There were no matters arising.

Guidelines comms planning

2. Faye provided an update on developing plans for the launch of our updated Classification Guidelines in Q1 2024. The aim of all comms activity around the launch will be to demystify the classification process and to promote understanding of how people from across the UK feed into the BBFC's guidelines to help ensure that our ratings continue to reflect broad public opinion. The Board discussed ideas for a launch event, including options for a venue and a panel discussion involving representatives from the film and video industries, from the child protection space, and from the BBFC Youth Panel.

Compliance show & tell

3. Wallis introduced a clip from an episode of *The Staircase*, a US true crime drama series following the case of Michael Peterson, who was convicted of murdering his wife in North Carolina in 2001. In the clip, Peterson attacks the woman with undetailed blows, then vacillates as she dies in a

lingering manner from her bloody injuries. We classified the episode 18 for 'strong violence, domestic abuse, brief sexual images'. It is an unusual 18 given the lack of process detail, and the relative discretion of the injuries. The Board agreed with the decision, however, citing the dwelling on the consequences of violence, the realism with which events are depicted, the relatable environment and the domestic abuse context. Wallis confirmed that the clip will be used as stimulus material in the guidelines research as we seek to understand how the public believes such scenes should be classified.

Risk register

4. Siobhan joined the meeting to discuss recent updates to the BBFC's risk register. The Board agreed that the key strategic risks had been correctly identified and supported the proposed mitigations and actions. Murphy suggested that the possibility of legal challenge against the BBFC could be added to the register, and Matt undertook to consider this risk.

AOB

5. There was no other business.

Date of next meeting: 15 June 2023