

BBFC Board of Classification Meeting

Thursday 25 February 2021

(Meeting held remotely)

Present

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| Patrick Swaffer | President |
| Kamlesh Patel | Vice President |
| Murphy Cobbing | Vice President |
| David Austin | Chief Executive |
| Dave Barrett | Deputy Chief Executive |
| Matt Tindall | Senior Policy Officer (minutes) |
| Edward Lamberti | Policy Manager (for items 3, 4 and 5) |
| Amanda Francis | Consultant (for item 3) |
| Siobhan Smedley-Wild | Finance Director (for item 5) |
| Faye Harcourt | Director of Marketing and Outreach (for item 6) |
| Sarah Peacock | Compliance and Education Manager (for item 6) |
| Chris Davies | Compliance Manager (for item 6) |

Minutes of the previous meeting

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising.

VOD ratings

3. Edward, Amanda and Matt updated the Board on efforts to ensure greater coverage of BBFC ratings on VOD and streaming platforms, to better protect children and provide trusted guidance to families.

Discrimination policy

4. The Board discussed the current policy position on describing issues related to discrimination in Ratings Info.

Video Appeals Committee

5. The Board considered revised terms of reference and structure for the Video Appeals Committee (VAC), which is being reconfigured in order to establish an appeals mechanism under the Video Recordings Act 1984 that is more efficient and less costly both for distributors and the BBFC than the present VAC. The existing body has not heard an appeal since 2006, and has been largely superseded by the BBFC's internal appeals process that was set up in 2007 and is much used by distributors. A more streamlined VAC would dovetail with that internal process and provide an important degree of independent external scrutiny of BBFC decisions much more effectively than that provided by the present Committee.
6. The Board agreed the proposed terms of reference and structure, subject to a final legal check, and instructed the BBFC to put them to DCMS for consideration by the Secretary of State.

Discrimination research

7. Chris and Sarah updated the Board on plans for research in 2021 into the issue of discrimination, to ensure that the BBFC's classification decisions and the guidance provided in Ratings Info are in line with the expectations of UK audiences. The Board agreed with the proposed scope of the research.

AOB

8. The Board discussed their recent viewings of SWALLOW (18), PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (15) and THE NEW MUTANTS (15).

Date of next meeting: 24 March 2021