

## **BBFC Board of Classification Meeting**

**Thursday 19 May 2022**

### **Present**

Patrick Swaffer	President
Murphy Cobbing	Vice President
Kamlesh Patel	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Dave Barrett	Deputy Chief Executive
Matt Tindall	Senior Policy Officer (minutes)
Chris Davies	Compliance Manager (for item 3)
Sarah Peacock	Compliance and Education Manager (for item 3)
Edward Lamberti	Policy Manager (for item 4)
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.

### **Reconsideration viewings:**

3. The Board considered a trailer for action thriller sequel **MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - DEAD RECKONING PART ONE**. The trailer was submitted for advice with a 12A request from the company. The BBFC's advice service allows companies to submit works ahead of their formal classification in order to receive an indication of the likely rating and what changes, if any, are required to obtain a particular rating. The advice provided to the company was that the trailer in its current form was likely to be classified 15 but that a 12A could be achieved with some minor edits, primarily to remove a brief sexualised image of a seemingly nude woman dancing in a nightclub. As the company was opposed to making any changes to the trailer, they requested a reconsideration. The BBFC's reconsideration procedure is free of charge and open to any distributor dissatisfied with the age rating their content is granted. The Board viewed the trailer and considered the image of the dancing woman, ultimately determining that its brevity, the lack of graphic detail, and the trailer's overwhelming focus on action and stunts helped mitigate the impact of the sexualised image. Revised advice was issued to the company, who were cautioned not to go any further in terms of sexualised imagery in subsequent trailers for the film. The company was also advised that the full sequence in the context of the film itself may prove challenging at 12A.

4. The Board also considered a trailer for fantasy drama THREE THOUSAND YEARS OF LONGING. The trailer was submitted with a 12A request but recommended by the viewing team at 15 due to a brief moment of implied oral sex and the impact of some 'horror' imagery. The Compliance Managers viewed the trailer as part of the referral process, and ultimately concurred. Keen to secure a 12A without cuts, the company then requested a reconsideration. The Board viewed and discussed the trailer, deciding that in its current form it would likely confound expectations at 12A and, accordingly, that some edits would be required for the company to achieve that category should they wish to make cuts rather than accepting the 15 classification.

#### **VOD consultation**

5. Edward updated the Board on the Government's recent response to the 2021 consultation on video-on-demand audience protection standards. In the response, which was published on 28 April 2022, the Government reiterated its support for VOD and streaming services to adopt BBFC age ratings on a voluntary basis, stating: "The Government continues to view these as best practice for content exhibited to UK audiences on account of being widely recognised by the public, underpinned by a transparent set of standards, and informed by regular consultation with the UK public. The Government is keen to encourage video-on-demand services to consider applying BBFC age ratings to their content; but it is of the view that the existing evidence does not warrant mandating their use."

#### **AOB**

6. There was no other business.

**Date of next meeting:** 16 June 2022