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## BBFC Board of Classification Meeting

Thursday 23 May 2019

### Present:

Patrick Swaffer	President
Kamlesh Patel	Vice President
Murphy Cobbing	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Murray Perkins	Policy Director
Craig Lapper (minutes)	Head of Compliance
Ian Mashiah	Compliance Officer (for items 4 to 6)
Matt Tindall	Age-verification Officer (for item 8)

### Apologies

- 1 There were no apologies.

### Minutes of the previous meeting

- 2 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

### Matters arising

- 3 There were no matters arising.

### Classification issues: erotic asphyxiation at 15 and 18

- 4 Mr Mashiah presented a series of clips that depict erotic asphyxiation, or that contain verbal references to erotic asphyxiation. A clip was shown from *Catastrophe* [Season 2, Episode 5] in which a man watches porn on a computer screen. The porn involves breath restriction equipment placed over a participant's head in a BDSM context. The Board agreed that the brevity of the shots and the lack of focus on detail means the breath restriction is not emphasised or presented in an instructional manner and therefore correctly classified at 15. A clip from *Mobile Homes* depicts a man restricting a woman's breath as they have sex in a swimming pool. The woman pretends to pass out and the man panics until he realises it's a joke. The Board agreed that, while the breath restriction occurs in a sexual context, the man's panic carries a clear warning about the potential dangers involved. The Board supported the 15 rating.
- 5 A scene was shown from *The Break* [Season 2, Episode 6] in which participants at a 'sex club' have plastic bags held over their heads while others watch. The Board agreed that the sustained focus on the asphyxiation, the suggestions of pleasure when the bags are removed and the focus on eroticised breast nudity are correctly classified at 18. The scene does not clearly indicate any of the dangers involved and only highlights the pleasures. The Board also viewed a scene from *Diablo Guardian* [Season 2, Episode 4] in which a man places pressure on a woman's neck as he has

sex with her. It was agreed that the eroticised nature of the presentation, including a focus on nudity, thrusting and romantic music, as well as the lack of suggestion of any dangers, is appropriately classified at 18.

- 6 Two clips were contrasted from recordings of stand-up comedy performances. *Adam Hills: Clown at Heart* makes a joke about the deaths of well-known celebrities but does so without much detail of how they died. It also carries a clear warning because the consequences of breath play were fatal. By contrast, *Joe Mande's Award Winning Comedy Special* features a joke about a fictional invention that could prevent further deaths from erotic asphyxiation. The scene includes a strong focus on the details of asphyxiation and how enjoyable the practice can be provided it is safely managed. The Board agreed that the clip from *Adam Hills* is correctly classified at 15, because the joke is not merely about asphyxiation, contains little detail and emphasizes the dangers, whereas the clip from *Joe Mande* does the opposite and is appropriately classified at 18.

#### **Discussion of Vice Presidents viewing**

- 7 The meeting discussed the 22 films the Vice Presidents viewed as part of their induction, the majority of which are those that focus groups viewed during the 2018 Guidelines consultation.

#### **Digital Economy Act**

- 8 Mr Perkins and Mr Tindall updated the meeting about progress on the implementation of the Digital Economy Act.

#### **AOB**

- 9 There was no other business.

**Date of next meeting: 10 June 2019**