

## **BBFC Board of Classification Meeting**

**Wednesday 21 July 2021**

(Meeting held remotely)

### **Present**

Patrick Swaffer	President
Murphy Cobbing	Vice President
Kamlesh Patel	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Matt Tindall	Senior Policy Officer (minutes)
Jonny Goodman	Senior Compliance Officer (for item 4)
David Hyman	Compliance Officer (for item 4)
Wallis Seaton	Compliance Officer (for item 4)

### **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. David A updated the Board on the Government's plans to consult on the regulation of video-on-demand services, and on progress towards developing artificial intelligence tools to enhance the BBFC's classification processes.

### **APCV recruitment**

3. The Board considered the candidates who have applied to sit on the BBFC's Advisory Panel on Children's Viewing (APCV). Six candidates will be invited to interview ahead of the APCV's next meeting in November 2021, which will be the first for the new members.

### **Recent classification decisions**

4. Jonny, David H and Wallis presented three clips from recently classified works.
5. Jonny shared a clip from the documentary GUNDA, which follows the lives of a pig and her piglets on a farm. The film features no narration and is in black and white but may still have some appeal to children. The film concludes with a tractor arriving and, it is implied, taking the piglets away. The camera then lingers on the mother pig's apparent confusion and growing distress as to where her piglets have gone, before the film abruptly ends. Due to the potentially distressing nature of this sequence and lack of positive resolution, the film was classified PG for 'upsetting scenes'. The Board agreed with the PG.
6. Wallis presented a clip from 76 DAYS, a Chinese documentary about the outbreak of COVID-19 in the Wuhan province. In the clip, a distressed medical worker is prevented from comforting her dying father. The film was classified 12 for 'distressing scenes'. The Board agreed that the emotional intensity of the scene and the topical sensitivity of the subject matter meant that 12 was appropriate.
7. David H presented a clip from BORAT: VHS CASSETTE OF MATERIAL DEEMED "SUB-ACCEPTABLE" BY KAZAKHSTAN MINISTRY OF CENSORSHIP AND CIRCUMCISION. Drawing on the Cinderella story, the animated sequence, shows President Trump search for a wife by repeatedly groping women, before Melania Trump urinates on his face and penetrates him anally. The work was classified 18 for 'strong sex, sex references'. The Board discussed the extent to which the comic context and animated presentation mitigates the strength of the scene, and weighed this against the findings in the most recent guidelines consultation that the public is particularly concerned about the 'pornification' of content aimed at teenagers. The Board considered the arguments for 15 - and there was sympathy for the lower rating - but given the level of public concern about pornification, the Board supported the more cautious 18.

## **AOB**

8. There was no other business.

**Date of next meeting:** 23 September 2021