

## **BBFC Board of Classification Meeting**

**Wednesday 22 July 2020**

(Meeting held remotely)

### **Present:**

Patrick Swaffer	President
Kamlesh Patel	Vice President
Murphy Cobbing	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Matt Tindall	Policy Officer (minutes)
Chris Davies	Compliance Manager (for agenda 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. There were no matters arising.

### **Chief Executive's update**

3. David briefed the Board on recent engagement with DCMS and Ofcom, with particular reference to policies for protecting children from potentially harmful online content.

### **Recent Classification Decisions**

4. Chris briefed the Board on *I SPIT ON YOUR GRAVE* (1978), which has been re-submitted in its uncut form for a video certificate. The film was most recently examined in 2010 and classified 18 after cuts were made to reduce a prurient focus on nudity and the humiliation and degradation of a female victim during scenes of sexual violence. Given the film's classification history, the Board will view and consider the film's classification.
5. A belated sequel, *I SPIT ON YOUR GRAVE: DEJA VU*, has also been submitted for classification and will likewise be viewed and discussed by the Board.
6. The Board considered a scene from *ANTHONY*, an upcoming television film based on the murder of teenager Anthony Walker, who was killed in a racist attack in Liverpool in 2005.

The film imagines the course that Anthony's life could have taken were it not tragically cut short, before depicting what really happened on the night of his death. While the Board acknowledged that the violence itself is depicted with a degree of restraint, it was agreed that this discretion was outweighed by the tonal impact of the scene. There is a prolonged sense of strong threat as Anthony and his friends are pursued by their attackers, who bombard them with racist abuse and ultimately murder Anthony with an ice pick. Chris highlighted that in the 2018 Guidelines research many young people said they were most affected by real-world scenarios and the idea that an event could plausibly happen to them. The Board agreed that the realism of the scene contributed to its power, and that the film was correctly classified 15.

7. Chris introduced SHANE, a British documentary about former prisoner Shane Taylor and his religious awakening. The Board considered a scene depicting how to construct a makeshift knife in prison, accompanied by verbal descriptions of the injuries such a weapon can inflict. The Board agreed that the film was rightly classified 18 due to the level of instructional detail it featured in this scene, but that compulsory cuts were not required. Mitigating factors include the fact that assembling a makeshift knife in the way depicted is not an entirely novel technique and that the scene stops short of providing a full step-by-step methodology. Nevertheless, the adult category is required in order to restrict the film from younger, more impressionable viewers.

#### **AOB**

8. The Board discussed the meeting of the Advisory Panel on Children's Viewing, held earlier on 22 July, at which the panel discussed the classification of JOJO RABBIT.
9. The Board discussed the classification of TENET, which was recently seen for advice by Patrick, David and Kamlesh.
10. Murphy briefed on the work of the Communications Committee.

**Date of next meeting: 17 September 2020**