

BBFC Board of Classification Meeting

Wednesday 13 July 2022

Present

Murphy Cobbing	Vice President
Kamlesh Patel	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Chris Davies	Compliance Manager (for items 3, 4 and 5)
Sarah Peacock	Compliance and Education Manager (for item 3, 4 and 5)
Matthew Blakemore	Head of Product (for item 6)
Matt Tindall	Senior Policy Officer (minutes)

Apologies

Patrick Swaffer	President
Dave Barrett	Deputy Chief Executive

Minutes of the previous meeting

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising.

References to sexual activity before the age of 16

3. Following recent cuts made to a sex work – KATIE K'S TEENAGE RAMPAGE 5 – to remove verbal references to sexual activity below the age of 16, the Board reviewed the BBFC's policy in relation of such references and confirmed that there should be no reference to sexual activity below the age of 16 in sex works.

Compliance - THE TERMINAL LIST

4. Chris and Sarah shared a clip of torture from an episode of action thriller series THE TERMINAL LIST. In the clip, the hero disembowels a man with a bladed weapon and hangs his intestines above his head. The Board agreed the level of sadism present in the clip required an 18.

Compliance - THE DIRTY DOLLS

5. Chris and Sarah presented a scene of sexual violence from 1973 'exploitation' film THE DIRTY DOLLS. In the clip, a kidnapped woman is sexually assaulted by two other women, with sexualised nudity and a focus on the attackers' pleasure. BBFC Classification Guidelines state that intervention may be required at the adult category where material presents a credible harm risk to individuals or, through their behaviour, to society. This may include portrayals of rape or other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour which make the violence look appealing; reinforce the suggestion that victims enjoy rape or other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour; or which invite viewer complicity in rape, other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour or other harmful violent activities. The Board considered whether the THE DIRTY DOLLS was in breach of the guidelines, and ultimately concluded that the film's depiction of sexual violence was so lacking in believability and credibility that it did not represent a genuine harm risk requiring compulsory cuts to the film. Accordingly, in line with the BBFC's guiding principle that adults should be able to choose their own entertainment provided the content is not illegal or harmful, the Board agreed that THE DIRTY DOLLS could be classified 18 uncut.

AI update

6. Matthew provided an update on the development of new AI tools to enhance the BBFC's classification processes.

Appointment of BBFC President

7. The Board discussed the recruitment of Patrick Swaffer's successor as BBFC President.

AOB

8. There was no other business.

Date of next meeting: 29 September 2022