

## **BBFC Board of Classification Meeting**

**Friday 27 November 2020**

(Meeting held remotely)

### **Present:**

Patrick Swaffer	President
Kamlesh Patel	Vice President
Murphy Cobbing	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Dave Barrett	Deputy Chief Executive
Matt Tindall	Senior Policy Officer (minutes)
Faye Harcourt	Director of Marketing and Outreach
Sarah Peacock	Compliance and Education Manager (for items 4 and 5)
Hege Kristofferson	Executive Assistant (for item 8)

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

### **Matters arising**

2. There were no matters arising.

### **Three year strategy**

3. David presented a proposed update to the BBFC's strategy for the next three years to enable the organisation to fulfil its mission of helping families choose content well, wherever they see it. The Board agreed the strategy.

### **Language research**

4. Faye and Sarah shared an update on language research, which is currently underway. The study will assess the UK public's attitude towards strong language ('f\*\*k', 'motherf\*\*ker') and very strong language ('c\*\*t') in film and TV content. This includes varying forms of bleeped, mouthed, implied or elided strong and very strong language, and how we should define this in ratings info. The research will consider the different contexts in which language may appear, and whether public acceptance towards the volume of strong or very strong language at 12(A) and 15, respectively, has changed. The use of acronyms indicating strong language (e.g. 'WTF') at the junior categories is also being explored. As is the classification of peer-to-peer/reclaimed use of the 'n-word', including how to define

this in ratings info. Where required, BBFC internal policies will be updated to reflect the findings of this research.

### **Classification: THE TIN DRUM**

5. Sarah informed the Board that the director's cut of the 1979 German drama THE TIN DRUM has been submitted for a video classification ahead of a planned Blu-ray release. The film was originally passed X for cinema release in 1980 after a compulsory cut was made under the terms of the Protection of Children Act 1978 (POCA) to remove what was considered to be a potentially indecent image of a 12 year old actor pressing his head to a woman's pubis. The cut was replicated in 1984 and the film was passed 15 on video. In 2003, the film was submitted for DVD release and the cut material reinstated following a reconsideration of its potential indecency and expert advice that there was no need for intervention on 'harm' grounds. Accordingly, the film was passed uncut for the first time in the UK. The director's cut, which contains the previously excised footage, was first submitted for classification in 2011 and was likewise passed 15 uncut.
6. The Board viewed the relevant clip and agreed that in line with the 2011 decision the current submission should be passed uncut.

### **Video Appeals Committee**

7. Matt updated the Board on plans to reform the BBFC's Video Appeals Committee drawing on the membership of the Advisory Panel on Children's Viewing to create an appeals mechanism that remains independent of the BBFC and is much more efficient and fit for purpose than current arrangements.

### **AI sub-committee**

8. Murphy briefed the Board on the first meeting of the Board of Directors' AI sub-committee, which has been established to explore the development of artificial intelligence tools to enhance the BBFC's classification processes.

### **Meeting dates for 2021**

9. The dates for the Board's meetings in 2021 were discussed and agreed.

### **AOB**

10. There was no other business.

**Date of next meeting: 9 December 2020**