



Age Ratings You Trust

203rd BBFC Board of Classification Meeting

Wednesday 11 July 2018

Present:

Patrick Swaffer	President
Alison Hastings	Vice President
Kamlesh Patel	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Dave Miles	Director of Outreach and Business Development
Craig Lapper (minutes)	Head of Compliance
Amelia Erratt (for item 3)	DEA Officer
Ben Howarth (for item 6)	Compliance Officer

Minutes of the previous meeting

1. The minutes were agreed.

Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising.

Digital Economy Act

3. The BBFC gave the final Guidance on Age Verification Arrangements and the Guidance on Ancillary Service Providers to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. It is expected these will be laid before Parliament shortly.
4. Work is underway on setting up the Independent Appeals Panel.
5. To ensure that age-verification providers maintain high standards, including on privacy and data security, the BBFC is developing a voluntary certification scheme for age-verification solutions in co-operation with industry. This is with the support of government and with input from the Information Commissioner's Office.

Classification issues

6. Ben Howarth joined the meeting to show a series of clips featuring nudity at the junior categories of U, PG and 12(A). The meeting viewed two scenes from the 2011 drama *Tomboy* in which a pre-pubescent girl passes herself off as a boy. The first scene shows the girl getting out of a bath, drying herself and then looking at herself in a mirror. The second scene shows the girl taking off her shirt to play football with some boys. The meeting agreed that the scenes are correctly classified at U because the nudity is entirely non sexual and no more than occasional across the work as a whole, as required by the U Guidelines.

The meeting also agreed that a clip from the 2007 animation *The Simpsons Movie*, showing Bart Simpson skating 'naked' through town, is acceptable at the U level, although the film itself is classified PG for mild bad language, innuendo and comic violence.

A scene was shown from the third episode of the recent TV series *Motherland*, in which a woman is embarrassed to find a breast has slipped out of her swimming costume while she talks to friends in a swimming pool. Although the episode is classified 12 for infrequent strong language, the meeting concluded that the nudity is sufficiently comic and natural to be permitted at PG in itself. By contrast, a scene from the 1981 adventure fantasy *Clash of the Titans*, in which Andromeda is ritually bathed before being offered as a sacrifice to the Kraken, presents the woman's nudity in a mildly sexualised and titillatory manner and is therefore most appropriately classified at 12 (although it was originally permitted at the A/PG level for cinema release in 1981).

The meeting viewed a clip from the 2017 biographical documentary *Bombshell: The Heddy Lamarr Story* which features brief sight of a topless Lamarr, aged 16, followed by sight of various other actors (all over 18) in dated black and white 'glamour' photographs. The sequence was referred to Compliance Managers after the film's initial viewing. They confirmed the shot of Lamarr is not lewd or sexualised and therefore neither legally indecent in terms of the Protection of Children Act 1978 nor inherently unacceptable under BBFC Guidelines at PG. However, the subsequent 'glamour' shots of older actors are sexualised to a degree and therefore appropriately classified at 12A, where the Guidelines permit brief and discreet nudity in a sexual context. The meeting agreed that 12A is the correct classification for these dated 'glamour' images in a documentary context.

The meeting also viewed scenes from two 15 classified works in order to test whether their depictions of nudity might be acceptable at more junior categories, other classification issues aside. A scene was shown from the 2017 drama *Jeune femme* in which a woman opens her apartment window and 'flashes' her bare chest at a friend. The character in question flashes simply in order to provoke an amused reaction, rather than for any sexual reason, and the nudity is not presented to the audience in a salacious or sexualised manner. The meeting agreed that the nudity, in itself, is sufficiently brief and non sexual for a PG classification. A scene was also shown from the third episode of the Netflix series *Edha*, in which a model on a catwalk wears a costume that reveals one of her breasts. While the episode is classified 15 for drug misuse the meeting agreed that, in itself, the nudity is at the PG level.

International co-operation

7. DA informed the meeting that NICAM will be visiting the BBFC soon to discuss improvements to the YouRI tool.

AOB

8. There was no other business.

Date of next meeting: Friday 14 September