



Age Ratings You Trust

208th BBFC Board of Classification Meeting

Wednesday 26 February 2019

Present:

Patrick Swaffer	President
Kamlesh Patel	Vice President
Murphy Cobbing	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Murray Perkins (minutes)	Policy Director
Amanpreet Dosanjh	Compliance Officer (for item 4)
Sarah Peacock, Andrew Ioannou, Emma Clifford	Compliance Manager, Consultants (for item 5)
Amelia Erratt	Head of AV (for item 7)

Apologies

- 1 There were no apologies

Minutes of the previous meeting

- 2 The minutes were agreed.

Matters arising

- 3 There were no matters arising.

Classification Issues: Depictions of Domestic Violence

- 4 Ms Dosanjh presented a range of clips featuring domestic violence. *Secret Superstar* (2017) is a Hindi language drama in which a wife is beaten by her husband as her children initially see, and then hear, the assault. The Board discussed the mitigation of having some focus on the children's horrified reactions which emphasise the negative consequences of the violence. The Board supported the film's 12A rating. The drama about J.K. Rowling, *Magic Beyond Words* (2011) contains a scene in which Rowling is beaten by her partner. An episode of the BBC drama *Call the Midwife* from 2017 shows a heavily pregnant woman being beaten and burnt with a cigarette. Again there is some focus on a child in the home. The 12 for both of the latter two works was supported. In all three cases the ratings info includes specific reference to 'domestic violence'. In contrast, *Big Little Lies* contains scenes in which violence in a relationship is portrayed, with the victim talking about the couple's sexual life being built around the abuse. Clips from two episodes show stronger violence and the 15 was agreed. However, the description in the ratings information of "violence" rather than "domestic violence" was debated. Scenes of domestic violence in *I, Tonya* (2017) was agreed at 15, but the presentation of the violence, in a film which is blackly comic, was considered in relation to whether the comic tone

might risk trivialising the issue. However, although the film has comic elements, the violence itself is not presented as comic and did not go beyond what is acceptable at the 15 classification. A UK BAFTA winning drama, *Murdered By My Boyfriend* (2014) shows a woman being beaten in a shop by her partner. In this case the Board agreed that the level of detail was acceptable at the 15 given to the film.

- 5 The Board agreed that public opinion research into the specific issue of domestic violence and abuse would be valuable. This should cover not only how members of the public wish the BBFC to classify such depictions but also how the issue is described in our ratings information.

Demo of the Horizon compliance portal - Remodus

- 6 Mr Ioannou, Mrs Clifford, and Ms Peacock introduced the compliance tool being developed under the Horizon project, which was well received. The Board agreed that this should be presented again in the middle of the year when the tool is further developed.

SISO/Netflix update

- 7 Mr Perkins updated the Board on the ongoing trials of the algorithm based classification tools, SISO and Netflix's tagging tool.

Age-verification

- 8 Mr Perkins and Ms Erratt updated the Board on the Digital Economy Act, including budgets and the voluntary Age Verification certification framework.

AOB

- 9 There was no other business.

Date of next meeting: 12 March 2019