



Age Ratings You Trust

## **BBFC Board of Classification Meeting**

Wednesday 19 September 2019

### **Present:**

Patrick Swaffer	President
Kamlesh Patel	Vice President
Murphy Cobbing	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Murray Perkins (minutes)	Policy Director
Amanda Francis	Consultant (DEA, AVMSD)
Emma Clifford	Remodus (Horizon update)

### **Apologies**

- 1 Craig Lapper (Head of Compliance)

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

- 2 The minutes were agreed.

### **Matters arising**

- 3 There were no matters arising.

### **Digital Economy Act and AVMSD**

- 4 Ms Francis provided an update on the Digital Economy Act implementation, with discussion including work with DCMS, ensuring we have the most effective and economical legal support, timely entry into force, and on-going cooperation with industry.

Developments in relation to the revised AVMSD were considered, as was the release of the latest research which shows considerable support for age-verification and underlines why it's so important. The research found that children as young as 7 are exposed to pornography online, and for over 60% of 11-13 year olds their viewing of pornography was mostly unintentional. Such exposure is affecting the way young people understand healthy relationships, sex, body image and consent. The research also found that children were predominantly seeing pornography on dedicated pornography websites, indicating that the Digital Economy Act's focus on commercial pornography is the right approach, and that it will have a significant positive impact in preventing young children stumbling across online pornography. 83% of parents

agreed with the statement “there should be robust age-verification controls in place to stop children (under 18s) seeing commercial pornography online” and 56% of 11 to 13-year-olds agreed with the statement “I want to be locked out of websites that are for 18-plus-year-olds”.

#### **Horizon update**

- 5 Ms Clifford reported on the rolling out of the new tagging tool for compliance work and security updates, including positive meetings with industry. Distributor partners are already working with a test version of the client portal and the further elements of Horizon will be rolled out live in the coming weeks.

#### **AOB**

- 6 There was no other business.

**Date of next meeting: 17 October 2019**