



Age Ratings You Trust

**198<sup>th</sup> BBFC Board of Classification Meeting**

Monday 16 February 2018  
3:00pm

**Present:**

Patrick Swaffer	President
Alison Hastings	Vice President
Gerard Lemos	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Amelia Erratt	DEA Officer
Craig Lapper	Compliance Manager
David Miles (minutes)	Policy Director

**Minutes of the previous meeting**

1. The minutes were agreed.

**Matters arising**

2. There were no matters arising.

**Apologies**

**Digital Economy Act**

3. Miss Erratt updated the Board on the arrangements for the AV and ASP Guidance consultations and the arrangements for any responses to the consultations. To ensure maximum transparency around our proposed regulatory role, the Board agreed to publish all responses we receive and produce our own written, public response to them. The Board agreed the importance of having preliminary discussions with key stakeholders, particularly ancillary service providers, before launching the formal consultations.
4. The meeting agreed that the DEA team would arrange for proposed new AV solution demonstrations at a future Board meeting before the law's entry into force.

**5. Classifications Guidelines Update**

Mr Lapper provided an update to the Board about progress on the setting up of the forthcoming consultation exercise that will lead to the fifth iteration of publicly tested Classification Guidelines. The Board agreed that, during the

qualitative stage of the research, key areas for consultation will include: racism and discrimination; transgender issues; difficult themes, including suicide, self-harm, anorexia and abuse; imitable techniques, violence, threat and tone at the junior classifications; sex, sex references and nudity on the 12A/15 and 15/18 borders, including depictions of BDSM; violence on the 12A/15 and 15/18 borders; threat and tone on the 12A/15 border; sexual violence; strong language in trailers.

6. We also intend to undertake some research into audience attitudes about the classification of South Asian cinema. Mr Lapper noted that the areas for consultation reflect feedback from the public over the last four to five years, including from our outreach work, as well as feedback received from the Consultative Council, the Advisory Panel on Children's Viewing and individual Compliance Officers. He noted that an independent research company was appointed, following a tender process, and that work is now well underway on sourcing materials for use in focus group sessions. It is anticipated that the qualitative fieldwork will take place between late March and early May.

### **International Co-operation**

7. Mr Austin briefed the meeting on the conference on media classification systems organised by the University of Sydney, and at which Mr Austin had been invited to speak. The conference brought together academics, policy makers and classifiers from a number of countries, including Australia, the United States, Brazil, China, India and the UK. Much of the discussion was focused on the classification of new media, the better to protect children and inform families. Other topics included the classification of sexual and violent content and obscenity, the latter with particular reference to Japan, and the transparency of classification standards and decisions.
8. The BBFC will be following up with overseas expert academics present at the conference two particular topics - sexual content in anime works and the depiction of transgender narratives in film - in order to help inform our classification of these issues.

### **AOB**

9. Following the positive response from prisoners and prison staff to the BBFC Prisons Project Pilot, the Board agreed to consider possible next steps working with similar vulnerable adults.

**Date of next meeting:** 14 March 2018