



Report of Chief Officer, Elections and Regulatory
Report to Licensing Sub Committee
Date: Tuesday, 5th November 2024
Subject: Certification of Films – Leeds Palestinian Film Festival 2024

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	Hunslet & Riverside Little London & Woodhouse Headingley & Hyde Park Otley & Yeadon	
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Executive Summary

To advise the Licensing Sub Committee Members of an application for the certification of a number of films to be screened between 20th November 2024 and 6th December 2024 at Hyde Park Picture House LS6 1JD, Wheeler Hall LS2 8BE, Otley Courthouse LS21 3AN, Leeds Playhouse LS2 7UP, Heart LS6 3HN and The Civic Hall Banqueting Suite LS1 1UR.

1.0 Purpose of this Report

1.1 This report informs Members with the background, history and issues of an application made under the Licensing Act 2003 (“the Act”) for the certification of films that do not currently have a BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) certification. Finally, this report informs Members of the options available to them when considering an application for the certification of films.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Licensing Act 2003 applies to premises which provide film exhibitions. At present there are a total of 8 cinemas licensed in the Leeds district.

2.2 The majority of films shown in cinemas will carry a certificate from the BBFC, the categories of which are as follows:

3.0 Main Issues

An application has been received from Leeds Palestinian Film Festival for the certification of number a of films as they are not currently certified by the BBFC. The screening is scheduled to take place between 20th November 2024 and 6th December 2024 at Hyde Park Picture House LS6 1JD, Wheeler Hall LS2 8BE, Otley Courthouse LS21 3AN, Leeds Playhouse LS2 7UP, Heart LS6 3HN and The Civic Hall Banqueting Suite LS1 1UR.

- 3.1 A list detailing the films requesting certification, including a synopsis and the applicant's recommended rating, can be found at **Appendix A**.
- 3.2 To assist members with their deliberation officers of the Licensing Authority have viewed the film and provided comments in accordance with BBFC guidelines, this can be found at **Appendix B**.
- 3.3 In response to a briefing by the BBFC and advice sought from the council's Legal Department, it is essential the Licensing Sub-Committee can view each film in order to rate it appropriately. In instances where films are unavailable, Members are advised to certify them 18 rating, subject to a written declaration from the applicant confirming that each film does not contain any content which would more likely than not, render the film liable to be classified as R18 if considered in accordance with the BBFC Classification Guidelines.
- 3.4 Details of the film including advance screeners have been provided to the Licensing Sub Committee Members in advance of the hearing.
- 3.5 A representative of Leeds Palestinian Film Festival will be available via phone.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 There are no implications for Council policy and governance in respect of determining this application.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1 There is no right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court against the decision of the Licensing Sub Committee.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are requested to consider this request for the certification of the films as attached hereto.
- 6.2 Members may take the decision to view any of the films prior to the issue of a Certificate.

7.0 Options Available to Members

- 7.1 The Licensing Authority has the authority to categories a film which is absent of a Certificate from the BBFC.