

Report of Chief Officer, Elections and Regulatory
Report to Licensing Sub Committee
Date: Tuesday, 18th July 2023
Subject: Certification of Films - Leeds Festival 2023

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Wetherby		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Members of an application for the certification of films to be shown within the Cinema Tent at Leeds Festival, Bramham Park, Thorner Lane, Leeds, LS23. The exhibition of these films will take place between Thursday 24th and Monday 28th August 2023.

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:

Category U Universal. Suitable for all.

A U film should be suitable for audiences aged four years and over, although it is impossible to predict what might upset any particular child. U films should be set within a positive framework and should offer reassuring counterbalances to any violence, threat or horror.

Category PG **Parental Guidance. General viewing, but some scenes may be unsuitable for young children.**

A PG film should not unsettle a child aged around eight or older. Unaccompanied children of any age may watch, but parents are advised to consider whether the content may upset younger or more sensitive children.

Category 12A/12 **Suitable for 12 years and over.**

Films classified 12A and video works classified 12 contain material that is not generally suitable for children aged under 12.

No one younger than 12 may see a 12A film in a cinema unless accompanied by an adult. Adults planning to take a child under 12 to view a 12A film should consider whether the film is suitable for that child. To help them decide, the BBFC recommend that they check the ratings info for that film in advance.

No one younger than 12 may rent or buy a 12 rated video work.

Category 15 **Suitable only for 15 years and over.**

No one younger than 15 may see a 15 film in a cinema.

No one younger than 15 may rent or buy a 15 rated video work.

Category 18 **Suitable only for adults.**

No one younger than 18 may see an 18 film in a cinema.

No one younger than 18 may rent or buy an 18 rated video work.

Category R18 **To be shown only in specially licensed cinemas, or supplied only in licensed sex shops and to adults only.**

The R18 category is a special and legally restricted classification primarily for explicit works of consenting sex or strong fetish material involving adults. Films may only be shown to adults in specially licensed cinemas, and video works may be supplied to adults only in licensed sex shops. R18 video works may not be supplied by mail order.

2.3 In addition to licensing premises for film exhibitions, the licensing authority has a duty under Section 20 of the Licensing Act 2003 to categorise a film which is absent of a certificate from a film classification body such as the BBFC. The licensing authority may also reject or modify a film which has received certification from the BBFC.

2.4 A copy of the current BBFC Classification Guidelines are available [here](#).

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 An application has been received from Film Oxford, on behalf of Festival Republic, to have a number of short films certified as they are not currently certified by the BBFC. The films are to be shown in the Cinema Tent of the Leeds Festival site, within the grounds of Bramham Park, Leeds, LS23.

3.2 A list detailing the films that request certification, including a synopsis and the applicant's recommended rating, can be found at **Appendix B**. The original copy of this list has been provided to Members of the Licensing Sub Committee in advance of the hearing with links to view advance screeners.

3.3 To assist members with their deliberation officers of the Licensing Authority have viewed each available film and provided comments in accordance with BBFC guidelines. The title of the film and a brief description where officers have cause for concern are as follows:

- Don't Forget to go Home – Scenes of drug use which are in keeping with the BBFC Classification Guidelines for a 15 certificate, as requested. However, officers wish to bring this to the attention of the Licensing Sub Committee due to previous unfortunate events at the festival and the campaigning against drug use by Festival Republic and relevant partner agencies.
- Hak Baker, Doolally – Scenes of a character inhaling what appears to be nitrous oxide. Non-legitimate use of nitrous oxide is currently controlled under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 and means the production, supply, and importation, but not possession of nitrous oxide for its psychoactive effects, is illegal.
- Ecstasy – Content of light drug use well within keeping of a 15 certificate, as requested. However for the reason outlined above in relation to 'Don't Forget to go Home', officers would like to bring this to the attention of the Committee.

3.4 Members may wish to note that Leeds Festival, Bramham Park, do have the benefit of a premises licence authorising the exhibition of films during the following times this year:

Thurs 24 th August 2023	19:00 until 03:00 the following day
Fri 25 th to Sun 27 th August 2023	12:00 until 06:00 the following day

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

5.0 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.