



LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

MEETING TO BE HELD IN CIVIC HALL, LEEDS ON
TUESDAY, 29TH OCTOBER, 2019 AT 10.00 AM

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

- R Downes - Otley and Yeadon;
- P Latty - Guiseley and Rawdon;
- P Wray - Hunslet and Riverside;

**Enquiries specific to
Entertainment Licensing:**

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CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT ITEMS

The reason for confidentiality or exemption is stated on the agenda and on each of the reports in terms of Access to Information Procedure Rules 9.2 or 10.4(1) to (7). The number or numbers stated in the agenda and reports correspond to the reasons for exemption / confidentiality below:

9.0 Confidential information – requirement to exclude public access

9.1 The public must be excluded from meetings whenever it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that confidential information would be disclosed. Likewise, public access to reports, background papers, and minutes will also be excluded.

9.2 Confidential information means

- (a) information given to the Council by a Government Department on terms which forbid its public disclosure or
- (b) information the disclosure of which to the public is prohibited by or under another Act or by Court Order. Generally personal information which identifies an individual, must not be disclosed under the data protection and human rights rules.

10.0 Exempt information – discretion to exclude public access

10.1 The public may be excluded from meetings whenever it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that exempt information would be disclosed provided:

- (a) the meeting resolves so to exclude the public, and that resolution identifies the proceedings or part of the proceedings to which it applies, and
- (b) that resolution states by reference to the descriptions in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (paragraph 10.4 below) the description of the exempt information giving rise to the exclusion of the public.
- (c) that resolution states, by reference to reasons given in a relevant report or otherwise, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

10.2 In these circumstances, public access to reports, background papers and minutes will also be excluded.

10.3 Where the meeting will determine any person's civil rights or obligations, or adversely affect their possessions, Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 establishes a presumption that the meeting will be held in public unless a private hearing is necessary for one of the reasons specified in Article 6.

10.4 Exempt information means information falling within the following categories (subject to any condition):

- 1 Information relating to any individual
- 2 Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
- 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
- 4 Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or officer-holders under the authority.
- 5 Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
- 6 Information which reveals that the authority proposes –
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment
- 7 Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

A G E N D A

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PRELIMINARY PROCEDURES</u></p> <p>ELECTION OF THE CHAIR</p> <p>To seek nominations for the election for the position of Chair.</p>	
2			<p>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (in the event of an Appeal the press and public will be excluded)</p> <p>(*In accordance with Procedure Rule 15.2, written notice of an appeal must be received by the Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support at least 24 hours before the meeting)</p>	

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
3			<p>EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>1) To highlight reports or appendices which:</p> <p>a) officers have identified as containing exempt information, and where officers consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons outlined in the report.</p> <p>b) To consider whether or not to accept the officers recommendation in respect of the above information.</p> <p>c) If so, to formally pass the following resolution:-</p> <p>RESOLVED – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of those parts of the agenda designated as containing exempt information on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information</p> <p>2) To note that under the Licensing Procedure rules, the press and the public will be excluded from that part of the hearing where Members will deliberate on each application as it is in the public interest to allow the Members to have a full and frank debate on the matter before them.</p>	
4			<p>LATE ITEMS</p> <p>To identify any applications as late items of business which have been admitted to the agenda for consideration</p> <p>(the special circumstances shall be identified in the minutes)</p>	

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
5			<p>DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS</p> <p>To disclose or draw attention to any disclosable pecuniary interests for the purposes of Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 and paragraphs 13-16 of the Members' Code of Conduct.</p> <p><u>HEARINGS</u></p>	
6			<p>CERTIFICATION OF FILMS – LEEDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2019</p> <p>To consider the report of the Chief Officer (Elections and Regulatory) that provides background, history and issues of an application made under the Licensing Act 2003 (“the Act”) for the certification of a film that does 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.</p> <p><u>Third Party Recording</u></p> <p>Recording of this meeting is allowed to enable those not present to see or hear the proceedings either as they take place (or later) and to enable the reporting of those proceedings. A copy of the recording protocol is available from the contacts named on the front of this agenda.</p> <p>Use of Recordings by Third Parties – code of practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Any published recording should be accompanied by a statement of when and where the recording was made, the context of the discussion that took place, and a clear identification of the main speakers and their role or title. b) Those making recordings must not edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or comments made by attendees. In particular there should be no internal editing of published extracts; recordings may start at any point and end at any point but the material between those points must be complete. 	1 - 32

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Report of: Chief Officer, Elections and Regulatory

Report to: Licensing Sub Committee

Date: Tuesday 29th October 2019

Subject: Certification of Films – Leeds International Film Festival 2019

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Little London & Woodhouse and Headingley & Hyde Park		
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 numerous films in respect of the Leeds International Film Festival. All screenings are scheduled to take place between 6th November 2019 and 21st November 2019 at the Leeds Town Hall, Hyde Park Picture House, Vue Light, Everyman Cinemas and Belgrave Music Hall.

A total of 79 films have been submitted requiring classification, but the applicant only has access to links for viewing two films. Having sought legal advice, Members are recommended to certify the films they cannot view as category 18 ratings. Further information on this matter is detailed at 3.2 of this report.

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 a film that does 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

- 3.1 An application has been received from Leeds Film of Leeds City Council, to have a total of 79 films certified for the Leeds International Film Festival. The films are scheduled for screening between 6th November and 21st November 2019, at Leeds Town Hall, the Hyde Park Picture House, Vue Light, Everyman Cinemas and Belgrave Music Hall.
- 3.2 In response to a briefing by the BBFC and due to recent issues experienced with films that Members have been unable to view, the film classification process has now changed. Advice sought from the council's Legal Department has reaffirmed 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 conforming 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. A copy of the e-mail from the applicant requesting the classification and including the declaration, can be found at **Appendix B**.
- 3.3 A list detailing the Title, Synopsis and the applicant's suggested rating of all 79 films, can be found at **Appendix C** of this report.
- 3.4 Details of the viewable films, are as follows:

Title	White Snake
Synopsis	A girl with magical gifts embodies the Chinese legend of the White Snake, in a land of magic, demons and plenty of snakes. Recommended PG.
Recommended Classification	PG

Title	Kes: Reimagined
Synopsis	Film version of the stage adaptation of Kes about a boy from a Barnsley council estate who owns a kestrel. Recommended certificate PG
Recommended Classification	PG

- 3.5 A representative from Leeds Film is due to attend the hearing and provide additional details of each film.

4.0 Screener

4.1 The screeners for the available films are not for public viewing at this stage. Members will therefore be provided with the screener link and access details in advance of the hearing to view the film. The option for Members to view the film at the hearing will also be available.

5.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

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

6.0 Legal and Resource Implications

6.1 The applicant can appeal any decision made by committee. Any appeal would be to the Magistrates' Court.

7.0 Recommendations

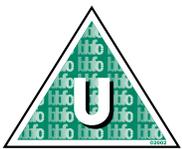
7.1 Members are requested to consider this request for the certification of the films as attached hereto.

7.2 Members are recommended to view films prior to the issue of a Certificate.

8.0 Options Available to Members

8.1 The Licensing Authority has the authority to categorise a film which is absent of a Certificate from the BBFC.

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right for you



Classification Guidelines

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The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit, co-regulatory body. Our classification function is funded through fees charged to those who submit films and video works for classification.

We classify:

- films, trailers and advertisements on behalf of local authorities who license cinemas under the Licensing Act 2003¹
- video works distributed on physical media under the Video Recordings Act 1984
- video works which are distributed over the internet under a voluntary, self-regulatory service
- commercial and internet content distributed via mobile networks under a voluntary, self-regulatory service

In addition to our classification functions, we are designated as the age-verification regulator under Part 3 of the Digital Economy Act 2017. The BBFC's responsibilities under this Act include:

- making sure that online commercial pornography services carry age-verification controls
- providing guidance on what kind of age-verification arrangements will ensure that these services comply with the law
- taking enforcement action against online pornographic services that do not carry effective age-verification and/or those that contain extreme pornographic material (as defined under UK law) which is illegal to possess

¹Since 31 March 2016 the BBFC has sub-contracted the assessment of cinema advertisements for commercial goods and services to the Cinema Advertising Association, while retaining responsibility for classifying all feature films, trailers, public information films and charity campaigns.

Our Classification Guidelines follow an extensive public consultation to which more than 10,000 people contribute across the UK, as well as other research, expert advice and our accumulated experience over many years. The Guidelines, and our practice in applying them, pay particular attention to changes in public taste, attitudes and concerns, and changes in the law. They also take account of new evidence from research and expert sources. The Guidelines are reviewed every four to five years, and how we apply them is reviewed when necessary.

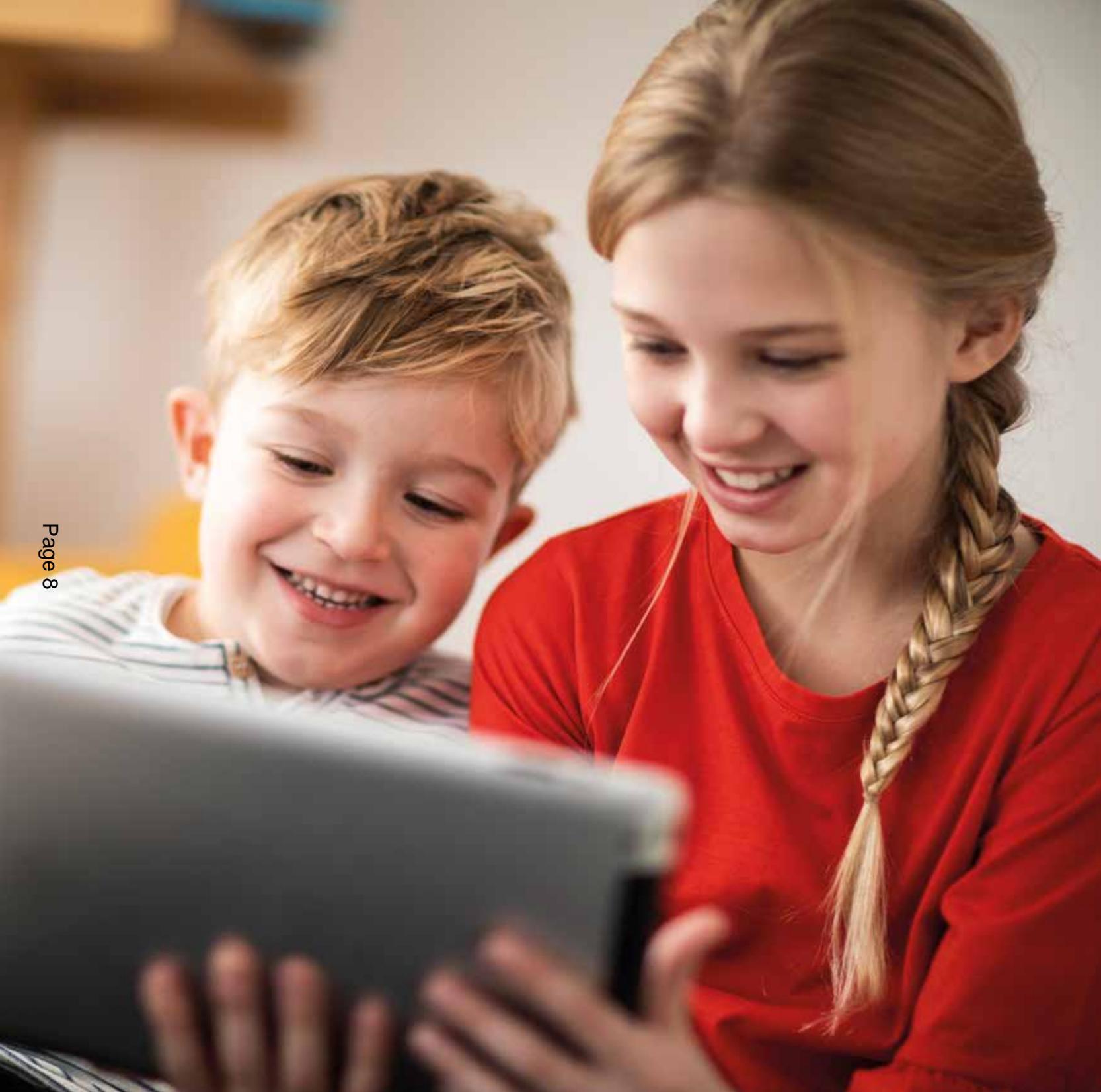
We take responsibility for the Guidelines and for their interpretation. This responsibility is subject to the normal considerations of fairness and reasonableness.

Here, and throughout the Guidelines, video works are taken to include films and programmes released on DVD or Blu-ray, or distributed by means of download or streaming on the internet.

The Guidelines cannot be a comprehensive account of everything that may at any time be of concern. If issues arise which are not specifically covered here, they will be dealt with by us on their merits and in line with the standards expressed and implied in these Guidelines. The Guidelines are not a legal document and should be interpreted in the spirit of what is intended as well as in the letter.

We will provide guidance on the interpretation of these Guidelines on request and their application to particular films.





Guiding principles

Our guiding principles are:

- to protect children and vulnerable adults from potentially harmful or otherwise unsuitable media content.
- to empower consumers, particularly parents and those with responsibility for children, to make informed viewing decisions.

We fulfil these roles chiefly by providing age classifications and publishing advice (known as ratings info) for individual films and videos. Ratings info gives a detailed breakdown of the issues that result in a particular classification, as well as other issues likely to be of relevance to viewers.

Our extensive research into public opinion guides us as we seek to ensure that classification decisions generally reflect public sensibilities and expectations as these change over time. We seek to ensure that films and videos reach the widest audience that is appropriate for their theme and treatment.

While media effects research and expert opinion can provide valuable insights, it can be inconclusive or contradictory on issues of suitability and harm. In such cases we must rely on our own experience and expertise to make a judgement as to the suitability of a work for classification at a particular age category, taking into consideration whether the availability of the material, to the age group concerned, is clearly unacceptable to broad public opinion.

We do this without infringing the right of adults to choose what they view provided that it remains within the law and is not potentially harmful.

In relation to harm, we will consider whether the material, either on its own, or in combination with other content of a similar nature, may cause any harm at the category concerned. This includes not just any harm that may result from the behaviour of potential viewers, but also any moral or societal harm that may be caused by, for example, desensitising a potential viewer to the effects of violence, degrading a potential viewer's sense of empathy, encouraging a dehumanised view of others, encouraging anti-social attitudes, reinforcing unhealthy fantasies, or eroding a sense of moral responsibility. Especially with regard to children, harm may also include impairing social and moral development, distorting a viewer's sense of right and wrong, and limiting their capacity for compassion.

We will not classify material which is in conflict with the criminal law, and we will have regard to whether the material has arisen from the commission of an unlawful act.

We act as a regulator across the United Kingdom. However, the United Kingdom does not have a single legal system, and so we take account of the different legal systems that coexist in the UK. Further details about the applicable legislation can be found in the Annexe – legal considerations.

General classification considerations

There are general factors that may influence a classification decision at any level and in connection with any issue. These factors are of particular importance when a work lies on the borderline between two age categories.

Context

We consider the context in which an issue (such as sex, language or violence) is presented within a film or video. In doing this we take account of factors such as the setting of a work (historical, fantasy, realistic, contemporary); the manner of presentation (for example, an aggressive and directed use of bad or discriminatory language may result in a higher classification than a light-hearted and self-referential use of the same term); the apparent intention of the film; the original production date of the work (for example, outdated attitudes might be considered less offensive, and consequently classified at a lower category, in an old, obviously dated, work); the expectations of the likely audience; and any special merits of the work.

Theme

Classification decisions will take into account the theme of a work, but will depend significantly on the treatment of that theme, and especially the sensitivity of its presentation. The most challenging themes (for example, sexual violence, paedophilia and suicide) are unlikely to be appropriate at the lowest levels of classification (U or PG). However, there is no reason in principle why most themes, however difficult, could not be presented in a manner which allows classification at 18 or even, where suitable, at lower levels. Classification decisions are likely to be less restrictive where difficult themes are handled in a reassuring and age appropriate manner, or where there is a positive outcome. Classification decisions are likely to be more restrictive where difficult themes are handled in a manner likely to create or reinforce anxiety.

Tone and impact

The overall tone of a work may also affect the classification decision. While the presentation of specific issues, such as sex and violence, may not be problematic at a particular category, a work with a dark or unsettling tone may receive a higher classification. Other tonal considerations which might have an influence on classification include the extent to which the work presents a despairing view of the world, or the extent to which transgressive or harmful behaviour is condoned or made to appear normal.

We take into account the impact of a work (i.e. how it makes the audience feel), for example the presentation of credible real world scenarios about which viewers, especially younger viewers, are likely to be anxious (e.g. terrorism, abduction, suicide, self-harm). We also take account of audience expectations regarding genre, for example in relation to horror films where threat may be more significant than the level of violence, or in the case of action films, where viewers are likely to have certain expectations regarding the type of highly choreographed and unrealistic violence they are likely to contain.

Where multiple classification issues are present in the same work, this may produce a cumulative impact that makes a higher classification more appropriate.



Specific classification considerations

This section of the Guidelines identifies concerns which apply, to a greater or a lesser degree, at all classification levels, and sets out the general approach that we take. The concerns are listed in alphabetical order.

Pages 18 to 28 of the Guidelines provide specific guidance for U through to R18 with regard to such concerns. This should be read together with the General classification considerations.

Dangerous behaviour

Classification decisions will take into account any detailed portrayal of criminal and violent techniques, and glamorisation of easily accessible weapons, such as knives. Works which portray anti-social behaviour (for example, bullying) uncritically are likely to receive a higher classification. Works which, taken as a whole, actively promote illegal behaviour may be cut or refused a classification.

Portrayals of potentially dangerous behaviour (especially relating to suicide, self-harm and asphyxiation) which children and young people may potentially copy, will be cut if a higher classification is not appropriate. The relative ease and likelihood of imitation are also considered.

Classification decisions may be less restrictive where the risks of any dangerous behaviour are likely to be obvious to the intended audience, or where material is intended to educate younger viewers about dangers. Classification decisions will be more restrictive where novel information is presented (for example, about specific suicide techniques), where harmful behaviour is glamorised, or where risks are not made clear.

Discrimination

Potentially offensive content relating to matters such as race, gender, religion, disability or sexuality may arise in a wide range of works, and the classification decision will take account of the strength or impact of their inclusion. The context in which such content may appear also has a bearing. Works with such content may receive a lower category where discriminatory language and behaviour is implicitly or explicitly criticised; or the work has a historical setting within which outdated attitudes or outmoded expressions would be expected; or the work is obviously dated, with little or no appeal to children; or the work seeks to challenge discriminatory attitudes and assumptions. Works with such content may receive a higher category where discriminatory language and behaviour is accompanied by threat or violence; or where there is a clear power imbalance; or where such behaviour is left unchallenged; or where discriminatory attitudes and assumptions are normalised. Where discriminatory language or behaviour occurs this will normally be indicated in ratings info.

Drugs

No work taken as a whole may promote the misuse of drugs and any detailed portrayal of drug misuse likely to promote the activity may be cut. Works which normalise or glamorise drug misuse are likely to receive a higher classification than works which show drug misuse while emphasising the dangers.

Where smoking, alcohol abuse or substance misuse feature to a significant extent in works which appeal to children, this will normally be indicated in ratings info. Classification decisions will also take into account any promotion or glamorisation of such activities.

Language

Language which people may find offensive includes the use of expletives with a sexual, religious or racial association, derogatory language about minority groups and commonly understood rude gestures. The extent of offence may vary according to age, gender, race, background, beliefs and expectations brought by viewers to the work as well as the context in which the word, expression or gesture is used.

For these reasons, it is impossible to set out comprehensive lists of words, expressions or gestures which are acceptable at each category. The advice at different classification levels, therefore, provides general guidance taking account of the views expressed in public consultation exercises.

Nudity

Nudity with no sexual context is in principle acceptable at all classification levels, but will not generally occur more than occasionally at U.

Nudity with a sexual context will receive a higher classification. Where the principal purpose of depicting nudity is to sexually arouse it will usually only be passed at the adult categories (18 or R18).



Specific classification considerations continued

Sex

The portrayal of sexual activity can range from kissing to detail of unsimulated sex. The normalisation of overtly sexualised behaviour is a concern at the junior categories (U, PG and 12A/12). The classification system allows progressively stronger portrayals of sexual behaviour as the categories rise.

Sex works (works whose primary purpose is sexual arousal or stimulation) will only be passed at 18 or R18.

We will apply these Guidelines in relation to sex to the same standard regardless of sexual orientation of the activity portrayed.

Sexual violence and sexual threat

Depictions of the stronger forms of sexual violence, including rape, are not permitted at the junior categories.

When considering scenes of sexual violence, aggravating factors include:

- the presence of a gang dynamic (e.g. a 'gang rape' scene)
- a focus on the victim being overpowered or powerless
- prolonged, detailed or gratuitous depiction
- an emphasis on nudity
- an emphasis on the pleasure of the attacker

- a strong emphasis on the distress and fear of the victim
- a credible 'real world' setting
- a protracted build-up of sexual threat

Mitigating factors include:

- brevity and lack of detail
- a clear educational message aimed at young people
- a strong narrative justification

We may refuse to classify content which makes rape or other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour look appealing or acceptable, reinforces the suggestion that victims enjoy such behaviour, or invites viewer complicity in such behaviour.

References to sexual violence are likely to be treated less restrictively than depictions of sexual violence, although any references at the junior categories will generally be oblique or undetailed.

Sexual threat and abusive behaviour are not permitted at the lowest levels of classification and will only be permitted at 12A/12 if brief and negatively presented.

Threat and horror

Where films are targeted at a younger audience, classification decisions will take into account factors such as the frequency, length and detail of scary or otherwise unsettling scenes as well as factors such as the impact of music and sound, and whether there is a swift and reassuring outcome.

The classification of threat and horror will take account of the general tone, impact, realism and supernatural elements of a work as well as the level of detail in individual scenes. Fantasy settings or the inclusion of humour may be mitigating factors. The presentation of 'real world' issues and fears may be an aggravating factor.

Violence

Classification decisions will take account of the degree and nature of violence in a work.

Works which feature the following are likely to receive a more restrictive classification:

- portrayal of violence as a normal solution to problems
- heroes who inflict pain and injury
- callousness towards victims
- the encouragement of aggressive attitudes
- characters taking pleasure in pain or humiliation
- the glorification or glamorisation of violence
- gratuitous violence
- violence presented in a credible and realistic context (e.g. gang violence, domestic violence)

Works which feature the following are likely to be treated less restrictively:

- violence in a historical context
- violence in an action or fantasy context
- violence that lacks detail
- violence that looks unreal, fake or overly staged
- comic violence
- violence that is challenged or punished
- violence in a context where it is likely to be expected by the intended audience

We are unlikely to classify content which is so demeaning or degrading to human dignity (for example, it consists of strong abuse, torture or death without any significant mitigating factors) that it may pose a harm risk.

Other matters

Education videos

When classifying an education video, including a sex education video, for use in schools, we will take account of the educational purpose of the video and the context in which it is to be viewed (for example in the classroom mediated by a teacher).

Music videos

In addition to the usual issues, the classification of a music video will take account of any elements which are of particular concern to parents, including glamorisation of behaviour which they consider inappropriate such as drug misuse or sexualised behaviour. Where music videos are short and self-contained, material may be less likely to be justified by context.

Photo or pattern sensitivity, motion sickness and reactions to low frequency sound

A small number of viewers are sensitive to flashing and flickering light, or some shapes and patterns, and may experience seizures or other serious physical effects. Some viewers experience feelings of motion sickness or other symptoms when viewing works which feature hand held or otherwise moving camerawork, or which feature very low frequency sounds.

It is the responsibility of film makers and distributors to identify works in which such issues arise and to ensure that, when required, appropriate warnings are given to viewers. However, if it is obvious during viewing that the work contains strong examples of such imagery

or sounds, we will advise the distributor of the need to ensure that appropriate warnings are in place. Where necessary, we may require assurances regarding the display of appropriate warnings as a condition of classification.

Release format

Classification decisions may be stricter on video works than on film. This is because of the increased possibility of under-age viewing as recognised in the Video Recordings Act (see Annexe), as well as the increased possibility of works being replayed or sections viewed out of context. Accordingly, a video work (either packaged or online) may occasionally receive a higher classification than on film, or require new or different cuts. (Video works may also receive a higher classification because they contain additional content.)

The screen format or visual presentation of a submission may also alter a classification, for example, if the image has been processed in the 3D format, or is shown with an altered aspect ratio such as on an IMAX screen, or if the work is experienced as a piece of immersive linear VR (virtual reality).

Titles

We will require changes as a condition of classification if the title of a work incites racial or religious hatred, or other criminal behaviour, or encourages an interest in abusive or illegal sexual activity.

If the title of a work is likely to cause significant offence to a significant number of people if displayed in a public place, we will advise the distributor to consider carefully the places in which it is likely to be seen and to take appropriate action, for example, by obscuring certain words on packaging or marketing materials. (This advice is not given in relation to video works classified R18 as such works may only be supplied or offered for supply in a licensed sex shop.)

Trailers and advertisements

Audiences may choose to see a full-length feature based on expectations of the particular genre at the given classification and on the published ratings info. In contrast, audiences have no choice, and often no expectation, about the accompanying trailers or advertisements which may be very different in tone and content to the film the audience has chosen to view. In addition, because trailers and advertisements are short and self-contained, material is less likely to be justified by context and more likely to cause offence.

For these reasons, classification decisions for trailers and advertisements may be more restrictive than for equivalent material in a main feature. Strong language will not be allowed in trailers at the U, PG and 12A/12 categories. Strong language may be permitted in trailers at 15, unless significantly aggravated by other factors. Infrequent very strong language may be permitted in trailers at 15 but usually only where there are mitigating factors such as a comic context.

The more restrictive approach set out above may be relaxed where an advertisement is part of a public information campaign or has a charitable purpose.

Cinemas are responsible for the exhibition of cinema trailers and advertisements, and we have no involvement in deciding which films they precede. Questions or complaints about the exhibition of trailers or advertisements should be directed to the cinema management in the first instance.

Video games

With a few limited exceptions we do not classify video games. We consider for classification those video games contained on discs which feature primarily linear video content and any pornographic video games.

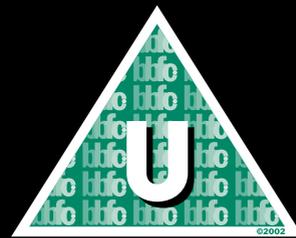
We also advise the video games authority on the classification of linear video footage contained in games which is not integral to the game. This includes, for example, rewards and video content in games which is designed to be viewed in its own right, without taking forward the narrative drive of the game.

Virtual reality

The BBFC is responsible for classifying linear VR (virtual reality) content whereas the video games authority is responsible for classifying non-linear VR content.

The classification categories

We endeavour to classify submitted works in one of the following categories:

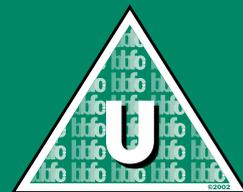


The following pages set out guidance on how the specific classification considerations (for example, sex and violence) are applied from U through to R18. The criteria should be read in combination with the general approach set out earlier under 'Guiding principles', 'General classification considerations' and 'Specific classification considerations'.

Because works from time to time present issues in ways which cannot be anticipated, these criteria will not be applied in an over-literal way if such an interpretation would lead to an outcome which would confound audience expectations.

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.

Dangerous behaviour

Potentially dangerous or anti-social behaviour which young children may copy must be clearly disapproved of or be presented unrealistically. No emphasis on realistic or easily accessible weapons.

Threat and horror

Scary or potentially unsettling sequences should be mild, brief and unlikely to cause undue anxiety to young children. The outcome should be reassuring.

Violence

Violence will generally be very mild. Mild violence may be acceptable if it is justified by context (for example, comedic, animated, wholly unrealistic).

Discrimination

Discriminatory language or behaviour is unlikely to be acceptable unless clearly disapproved of.

Drugs

References to illegal drugs or drug misuse must be infrequent and innocuous, or have a clear educational purpose or anti-drug message suitable for young children.

Language

Infrequent use only of very mild bad language.

Nudity

Occasional nudity, with no sexual context.

Sex

Only very mild sexual behaviour (for example, kissing) and references to such behaviour.



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.

Dangerous behaviour

No detail of potentially dangerous behaviour which young children are likely to copy, if that behaviour is presented as safe or fun. No glamorisation of realistic or easily accessible weapons such as knives. No focus on anti-social behaviour which young children are likely to copy.

Discrimination

Discriminatory language or behaviour is unlikely to be acceptable unless clearly disapproved of, or in an educational or historical context, or in a particularly dated work with no likely appeal to children. Discrimination by a character with whom children can readily identify is unlikely to be acceptable.

Drugs

References to illegal drugs or drug misuse must be innocuous or carry a suitable anti-drug message.

Language

Mild bad language only. Aggressive or very frequent use of mild bad language may result in a work being passed at a higher category.

Nudity

There may be nudity with no sexual context.

Sex

Sexual activity may be implied, but should be discreet and infrequent. Mild sex references and innuendo only.

Threat and horror

Frightening sequences or situations where characters are in danger should not be prolonged or intense. Fantasy settings and comedy may be mitigating factors.

Violence

Violence will usually be mild. However, there may be moderate violence, without detail, if justified by its context (for example, history, comedy or fantasy).



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, we 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.

Dangerous behaviour

No promotion of potentially dangerous behaviour which children are likely to copy. No glamorisation of realistic or easily accessible weapons such as knives. No endorsement of anti-social behaviour.

Discrimination

Discriminatory language or behaviour must not be endorsed by the work as a whole. Aggressive discriminatory language or behaviour is unlikely to be acceptable unless clearly condemned.

Drugs

Misuse of drugs must be infrequent and should not be glamorised or give detailed instruction.

Language

There may be moderate bad language. Strong language may be permitted, depending on the manner in which it is used, who is using the language, its frequency within the work as a whole and any special contextual justification.

Nudity

There may be nudity, but in a sexual context it must be brief and discreet.

Sex

Sexual activity may be briefly and discreetly portrayed. Moderate sex references are permitted, but frequent crude references are unlikely to be acceptable.

Sexual violence and sexual threat

There may be verbal references to sexual violence provided they are not graphic. The stronger forms of sexual violence, including rape, may only be implied and any sexual threat or abusive behaviour must be brief and negatively presented.

Threat and horror

There may be moderate physical and psychological threat and horror sequences. Although some scenes may be disturbing, the overall tone should not be. Horror sequences should not be frequent or sustained.

Violence

There may be moderate violence but it should not dwell on detail. There should be no emphasis on injuries or blood, but occasional gory moments may be permitted if justified by the context.



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.

Dangerous behaviour

Dangerous behaviour (for example, suicide, self-harming and asphyxiation) should not dwell on detail which could be copied. Whether the depiction of easily accessible weapons is acceptable will depend on factors such as realism, context and setting.

Discrimination

The work as a whole must not endorse discriminatory language or behaviour, although there may be racist, homophobic or other discriminatory themes and language.

Drugs

Drug taking may be shown but the work as a whole must not promote or encourage drug misuse (for example, through detailed instruction). The misuse of easily accessible and highly dangerous substances (for example, aerosols or solvents) is unlikely to be acceptable.

Language

There may be strong language. Very strong language may be permitted, depending on the manner in which it is used, who is using the language, its frequency within the work as a whole and any special contextual justification.

Nudity

There are no constraints on nudity in a non-sexual or educational context. Sexual nudity may be permitted but strong detail is likely to be brief or presented in a comic context.

Sex

Sexual activity may be portrayed, but usually without strong detail. There may be strong verbal references to sexual behaviour. Repeated very strong references, particularly those using pornographic language, are unlikely to be acceptable. Works whose primary purpose is sexual arousal are unacceptable.

Sexual violence and sexual threat

There may be strong verbal references to sexual violence but any depiction of the stronger forms of sexual violence, including rape, must not be detailed or prolonged. A strong and sustained focus on sexual threat is unacceptable.

Threat and horror

There may be strong threat and horror. A sustained focus on sadistic threat is unlikely to be acceptable.

Violence

Violence may be strong but should not dwell on the infliction of pain or injury. The strongest gory images are unlikely to be acceptable. Strong sadistic violence is also unlikely to be acceptable.



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.**

Adults should be free to choose their own entertainment. Exceptions are most likely in the following areas:

- where the material is in breach of the criminal law, or has been created through the commission of a criminal offence
- where material or treatment appears to us to risk harm to individuals or, through their behaviour, to society. For example, the detailed portrayal of violent or dangerous acts, or of illegal drug use, which may cause harm to public health or morals. This may include portrayals of sadistic violence, rape or other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour which make this violence look appealing; reinforce the suggestion that victims enjoy rape or other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour; or which invite viewer complicity in rape, other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour or other harmful violent activities
- where there are more explicit images of sexual activity in the context of a sex work (see right)

In the case of video works, which may be more accessible to younger viewers, intervention may be more frequent than for cinema films.

Sex works at 18

Sex works are works whose primary purpose is sexual arousal or stimulation. Sex works containing only material which may be simulated are generally passed 18. Sex works containing clear images of real sex, strong fetish material, sexually explicit animated images, or other very strong sexual images will be confined to the R18 category. Material which is unacceptable in a sex work at R18 is also unacceptable in a sex work at 18.



R18

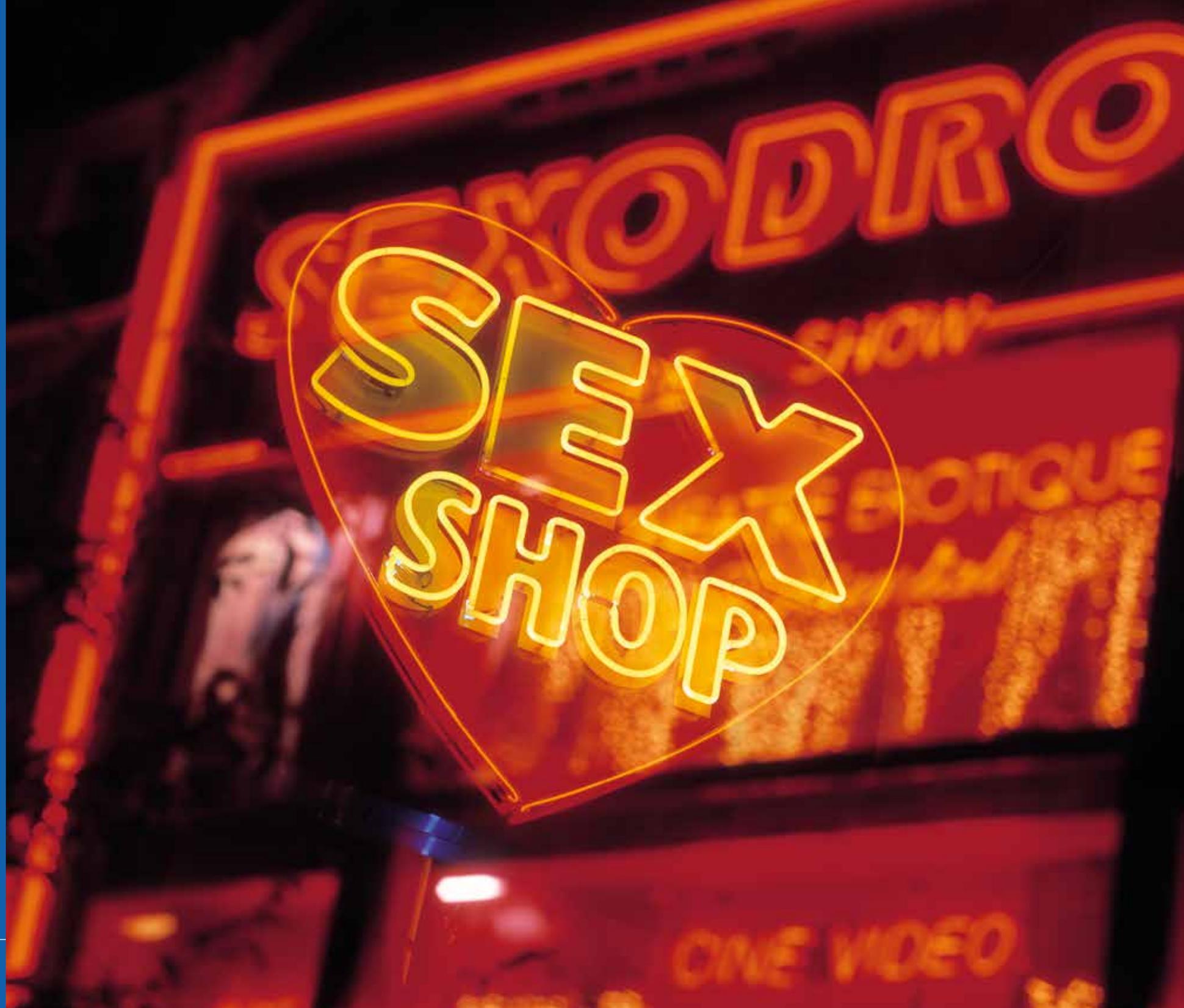
To be shown only in specially licensed cinemas, or supplied only in licensed sex shops, and to adults only



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.

The following content is not acceptable:

- material which is in breach of the criminal law, including material judged to be obscene under the current interpretation of the Obscene Publications Act 1959 (see Annexe – legal considerations)
- material (including dialogue) likely to encourage an interest in sexually abusive activity which may include adults role-playing as non-adults
- the portrayal of sexual activity which involves real or apparent lack of consent. Any form of physical restraint which prevents participants from indicating a withdrawal of consent
- the infliction of pain or acts which are likely to cause serious physical harm, whether real or (in a sexual context) simulated. Some allowance may be made for non-abusive, consensual activity
- penetration by any object likely to cause physical harm
- sexual threats, humiliation or abuse which do not form part of a clearly consenting role-playing game



Intervention

Where possible we will carry out our responsibilities through appropriate use of the classification categories, particularly in order to protect children from any potential harm.

If necessary, however, we may cut or even refuse to classify a film or video work.

In some cases, we require assurances, cuts or other changes (for example, the addition of warning captions) as a condition of classification, or as a condition of classifying at a particular category. In some circumstances we may refuse to classify a work at any category. We publish details of all interventions on our website.

Cuts for category

If the submitted work is suitable for classification, but only at a category higher than that requested by the customer, we will consider whether a lower category could be achieved through relatively minor or simple changes. If so, we may offer the customer a choice of accepting either the higher or lower category (the latter with defined changes as necessary).

Cuts for category are unlikely to be available if the required changes would be very extensive or complex, or would not address for example, a tonal or thematic issue running throughout the work.

Compulsory cuts

If a submitted work raises issues or concerns that cannot be addressed by classification at a particular age category, we may require cuts or other changes as a condition of classification. Such intervention is most likely when the submitted work contains:

- material which may promote criminal activity
- material which is obscene or otherwise illegal
- material created by means of the commission of a criminal offence
- portrayals of children in a sexualised or abusive context
- material which makes rape, other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour, or sadistic violence look appealing

- graphic images of real injury, violence or death presented in a salacious or sensationalist manner which risks harm by encouraging callous or sadistic attitudes
- material which reinforces the suggestion that victims enjoy rape or other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour
- material which invites viewer complicity in rape, other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour, or other harmful violent activities
- sex works which contain material listed as unacceptable at R18

When the issue relates to the circumstances of filming (for example, in relation to animal cruelty or public indecency) the customer will normally be given an opportunity to present evidence before a final decision is reached.

Refusal to classify

As a last resort, the BBFC may refuse to classify a work, in line with the objective of preventing non-trivial harm risks to potential viewers and, through their behaviour, to society. We may do so, for example, where a central concept of the work is unacceptable, such as a sustained focus on rape, other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour or sadistic violence. Before refusing classification we will consider whether the problems could be adequately addressed through intervention such as cuts. In deciding whether to refuse to classify, we will keep in mind the inherent difficulty of using behavioural research to draw conclusions about real world risks, and will have regard to the full range of available evidence, including the views of the public and our own knowledge and experience.

Engagement with the public

We publish detailed information about the content we classify, which we call ratings info. It's a helpful guide, particularly for parents, that gives a summary of how and why a film or video was given its age rating.

Ratings info includes:

- a short description of the issues contained in a film or video, and this appears on the black card shown on the cinema screen before a film starts, for example:



strong violence, sex, language, drug misuse

- we publish a longer, fuller version on our website and app

All content classified since the early 2000s has a short line of ratings info, and content classified more recently also has a longer version, giving you a detailed idea of what issues – bad language, drugs, sex and violence, or the use of discriminatory language or behaviour, for instance – you're likely to find in the film. It also raises any other issues that may be of concern, such as divorce or bereavement.

We try to avoid giving away major plot points. When ratings info does contain plot spoilers we always post a warning. Occasionally, the longer version of ratings info describes full sequences in a film – for example, it might describe a specific fight scene to give you a flavour of the sort of violence in the film and how strong it looks and feels – so be aware of this.

We publish ratings info the moment a film or video is classified, but the longer version may not be available until 10 days before the film opens. Sometimes, we classify films many weeks or even months before they are due to open, which is why not all films listed on our website will have a link to the longer ratings info yet. We encourage viewers to check ratings info when they are choosing content for children and for themselves.

bbfc.co.uk

Our website provides a comprehensive database of all the content we classify, including ratings info and information about cuts. You can read the Classification Guidelines, search through our press releases, research and Annual Reports. We also publish case studies on films, including many set film texts for Film Studies courses in the UK, a timeline of key events in our history and regular podcasts.

cbbfc.co.uk

Content for younger children, including the chance to rate trailers for children's films and learn more about our work, can be found on CBBFC, our website for children. Parents can also find advice about choosing content for children on VoD platforms and information about our education programme.

BBFC app

Our free app for iOS and Android devices lets you check the latest film classifications and ratings info, watch trailers and read our Guidelines.

Twitter – @BBFC

We update our Twitter account, @BBFC, with all our news and latest film classification decisions. You can ask us quick questions there too. For more detailed questions, you can email us on feedback@bbfc.co.uk

Newsletters

We produce a regular newsletter about our latest classification decisions, podcasts and news. Our education team sends a newsletter to teachers once a term, focussing on our outreach programme, partnerships and resources, including case studies. For industry we send a regular update on our services, news and classification turnaround times each quarter. You can sign up to receive any of these newsletters on our website, bbfc.co.uk

Podcasts

You can stream and download our regular short podcast on our website, Soundcloud and iTunes. Each episode focuses on a particular theme, film or TV series, and their age rating, highlighting key issues we took into account and any interesting facts about the classification process, for example any advice we gave, or reductions made by the film maker or distributor to secure a particular age rating.



Appeals, advice viewings and feedback

Appeals

We offer a formal reconsideration procedure which is open to any customer dissatisfied with the determination made in respect of their work. The reconsideration is free of charge and will normally take fewer than 10 working days.

A customer may also appeal directly to an independent authority. Such an appeal may take place following, or instead of, our reconsideration. In the case of films, the customer (or any member of the public) may address itself to the local authority which licenses cinemas in a particular area. In the case of video works a customer may appeal to the Video Appeals Committee. The VAC is independent of the BBFC and can be contacted by post as follows:

The Secretary
The Video Appeals Committee
3 Soho Square
London
W1D 3HD

Customers should note that a reconsideration or an appeal involves looking at the issues afresh. This means that the outcome could, in some circumstances, be more restrictive than the original determination.

Advice viewings

A customer may submit works for advice at any stage of the production process. We will inform them of the likely classification a work will receive, and where appropriate any changes required to achieve the customer's preferred classification. However, advice given in such circumstances is not binding and we reserve the right to reach a different decision when the final version of the work is submitted formally for classification. If the final version of the work submitted for classification differs in any significant respect from that seen for advice, and if those changes appear to reflect advice we have given, then details of the changes will appear on our website.

Feedback

If you want to send us any feedback about our age ratings or classification decisions, please don't hesitate to email us at feedback@bbfc.co.uk or write to us at:

Chief Executive's Office
BBFC
3 Soho Square
London
W1D 3HD



Annexe – legal considerations

The following legislation is not listed according to chronology or importance. Instead, it reflects a useful way of explaining the structure of the legal framework that applies to our work.

The Licensing Act 2003

England and Wales

Cinemas (Northern Ireland) Order 1991

Northern Ireland

Cinemas Act 1985

Scotland

Cinemas require a licence from the local authority in which they operate. The licence must include a condition requiring the admission of children (anyone under 18) to any film to be restricted in accordance with our recommendations or those of the licensing authority. One of the key reasons for the licensing requirement is the protection of children, including from potentially harmful content in films.

The Video Recordings Act 1984

Video works (including films, TV programmes and some video games) which are supplied on a disc, tape or any other device capable of storing data electronically must have a BBFC classification unless they fall within the definition of an exempted work.

When considering whether to award a certificate to a work, or whether a work is suitable at a particular category, we are required by the Act to have special regard to the likelihood of works being viewed in the home, and to any harm that may be caused to potential viewers or, through their behaviour, to society by the manner in which the work deals with:

- criminal behaviour
- illegal drugs
- violent behaviour or incidents

- horrific behaviour or incidents
- human sexual activity

In considering these issues we have in mind the possible effect not only on children but also on other vulnerable people.

The Obscene Publications Acts 1959 & 1964

England and Wales

The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

Scotland

The Obscene Publications Act 1857

Northern Ireland

It is illegal to publish a work which is obscene. A work is obscene if, taken as a whole, it has a tendency to deprave and corrupt a significant proportion of those likely to see it. Under the Obscene Publications Act 1959, no offence is committed if publication is justified as being for the public good on the grounds that it is in the interests of science, art, literature or learning or other objects of general concern.

In Scotland, case law implies a similar test would be applied. In Northern Ireland, while there is no express defence of “public good” it is likely that English law would be taken into consideration.

Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010/Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

Scotland

It is illegal to be in possession of an extreme pornographic image. Under the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 an extreme pornographic image is one which is pornographic and grossly offensive, disgusting or otherwise of an obscene character, which features an apparently real person, and which portrays, in an explicit and realistic way, an act which:

- threatens a person’s life
- results, or is likely to result, in serious injury to a person’s anus, breasts or genitals
- involves sexual interference with a human corpse
- involves intercourse or oral sex with an animal
- involves non-consensual penetration of a mouth, vagina or anus with a penis or non-consensual sexual penetration of a vagina or anus by anything

Under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 an extreme pornographic image is one which is pornographic and obscene, and which depicts in an explicit and realistic way, an act which:

- takes or threatens a person’s life
- results, or is likely to result, in a person’s severe injury
- involves rape or other non-consensual penetrative sexual activity

- involves sexual activity involving (directly or indirectly) a human corpse
- involves sexual activity between a person and an animal

Works we classify under the Video Recordings Act are excluded from the scope of the offence across the UK.

The Protection of Children Act 1978

England and Wales

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

Scotland

Protection of Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1978

Northern Ireland

It is illegal to make, distribute, show or possess indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of a child. It is also illegal to make, distribute, show or possess indecent images of children which have been derived from a photograph or pseudo-photograph (for example, by tracing). Offences relating to the possession of such images are contained within the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (England, Wales and Scotland), and the Criminal Justice (Evidence, Etc.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1988. A child is defined as a person under the age of 18.

The Coroners and Justice Act 2009

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

The Criminal Justice and Licensing Act 2010

Scotland

It is illegal to be in possession of a prohibited image of a child. A prohibited image of a child is a non-photographic or non-pseudo-photographic image which is pornographic and grossly offensive, disgusting, or otherwise of an obscene character, and which focuses solely or principally on a child’s genitals or anal region, or which portrays specified sexual acts by, of, or in the presence of a child, including masturbation, oral sex or penetration, including sexual acts with animals. A child is defined as being under 18 and an image of a child or other person can include imaginary representations. Works we classify under the Video Recordings Act are excluded from the scope of the offence unless images have been extracted from such works for the purpose of sexual arousal.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003

England and Wales

Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009

Scotland

The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008

Northern Ireland

It is illegal to expose oneself with intent to cause alarm or distress – this offence augments the common law misdemeanour of indecent exposure. It is also prohibited for a person to record the private act of another, where the intention of the recording is for the sexual gratification of himself or a third party and where the recorded party has not consented to so being filmed.

The Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015

England and Wales

Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016

Scotland

Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

Northern Ireland

It is an offence to disclose a private sexual photograph or film without the consent of any individual who appears in the photograph or film, if it is done with the intention of causing that individual distress (or causing them fear, alarm or distress in Scottish law).

The Public Order Act 1986

England, Scotland and Wales

The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987

Northern Ireland

It is illegal to distribute, show or play to the public a recording of visual images or sounds which are threatening, abusive or insulting if the intention is to stir up racial hatred or hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation, or if racial hatred or hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation is likely to be stirred up. It is also illegal to distribute, show or play to the public a recording of visual images or sounds which are threatening if the intention is to stir up religious hatred.

In Northern Ireland the relevant group of persons may be defined not only by colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origins, but also by “religious belief” or “sexual orientation” or “disability”.

The Cinematograph Films (Animals) Act 1937

England, Scotland and Wales

It is illegal to show any scene “organised or directed” for the purposes of the film that involves actual cruelty to animals. This Act applies to the exhibition of films in public cinemas but we also apply the same test to video works. For the purposes of this legislation and The Animal Welfare Act 2006, only vertebrates which are domesticated or otherwise under the control of man are defined as “animals”.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006

England and Wales

The Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Northern Ireland

The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006

Scotland

It is illegal to supply, publish, show or possess with intent to supply a video recording of an “animal fight” that has taken place within the UK since 6 April 2007.

The Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Act 2002

It is illegal, in the course of a business, to publish a tobacco advertisement.

Blasphemy

In Scotland and Northern Ireland, the common law crime of blasphemy exists but has not been utilised for prosecution in modern times. The offences of blasphemy and blasphemous libel under the common law of England and Wales were abolished in The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008.

Human Rights Act 1998

The Act permits such restrictions on freedom of expression as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

The Digital Economy Act 2017

Under Part 3 of the Act it is unlawful to make pornographic material available on the internet to persons in the United Kingdom, on a commercial basis, other than in a way that secures that, at any given time, the material is not normally accessible by persons under the age of 18. The BBFC is the designated age-verification regulator under Part 3 of the Act. The BBFC may take enforcement action against non-compliant pornographic services and/or where a service makes extreme pornographic material, as defined by the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, available on the internet to persons in the United Kingdom.

Other unlawful material

In carrying out its responsibilities the BBFC will have regard to whether the material itself appears to be unlawful in the United Kingdom, or has arisen from the commission of an unlawful act.



Get more info on our app

bbfc.co.uk/app

British Board of Film Classification

3 Soho Square,
London,
W1D 3HD

T 020 7440 1570

bbfc.co.uk/about-bbfc/contact-us

BBFC Classification Guidelines 2019

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Nelson, Matthew

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 September 2019 13:42
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Licensing Notes
Attachments: List of Feature Films at Leeds International Film Festival 2019 for Licensing Committee.xlsx

Hi [REDACTED] – thanks for your email this morning. The attached spreadsheet lists all the feature films showing at this year's festival which do not have a certificate from the British Board of Film Classification as they have not had a full release in this country. All the certification advice below is made by programmers who have watched and selected the films and is based on the BBFC guidelines, whenever in doubt we have erred on the side of caution and recommended the higher certificate. The festival audience is almost entirely an adult audience and most films are aimed exclusively at adults in theme, even if there is no specific content which would generate an adult certificate. If the committee decide we need to make all these films for over 18s only, we can accommodate that and I can confirm that none of the films have any extreme content which would require an R18 certificate.

There are two exceptions which are both family films for which we would really need to have PG ratings. One is the Japanese animation White Snake. We do actually have a link to watch the film below but please keep this confidential:

[REDACTED]

The other film is Kes: Reimagined, which is a film version of a stage show adaptation of the film Kes from the book A Kestrel for a Knave. This film is still in post-production and we are awaiting a preview version of the film from the filmmakers but I will send this too as soon as it arrives.

The schedule is not completely confirmed for exact dates and times but we can give you that information later on if required. All films screen between 6th and 21st November and our venues are Leeds Town Hall, the Hyde Park Picture House, Vue Light and Everyman Cinemas, the Belgrave Music Hall, all of which are fully licensed to show films.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Leeds Film, Leeds City Council, Leeds Town Hall, The Headrow, Leeds, LS1 3AD, UK +44 (0)113 378 5999

33rd Leeds International Film Festival, 6-21 November 2019

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Title	Synopsis
143 Sahara Street	Documentary on the proprietor of a cafe in the Saharan desert. No majorly explicit content. Recommended 12A.
A Hidden Life	The conscience of a pious Austrian farmer is severely tested as war blankets Europe and Nazi ideology spreads. Recommended PG.
A Marriage Story	Czech documentary profile of a marriage between two ordinary people made over 35 years. Some adult themes but no explicit material, recommended certificate 12A.
Adam	Touching drama about female friendship between a widow and a pregnant woman in Casablanca. Some mild nudity with no sexual context. Recommended Cert (12)
Alexandria... Why?	In 1940s Egypt, a teenager escapes his country's tense political climate through his love of American film. Contains infrequent mild to moderate violence, brief mild drug use, occasional coarse language. Recommended cert 12A
Babyteeth	Story of the last days of a teenage girl dying from cancer and her relationships with her parents and boyfriend. Recommended 12.
Beanpole	Drama about female friendship and PTSD set in post-war Leningrad. Scenes of sexual violence. Recommended Cert (18)
Bellingcat: Truth in a Post-Truth World	Documentary about the collective of citizen investigative journalists analysing new stories from around the world. Some adult themes but no explicit content, recommended certificate 12A.
Calm with Horses	Irish crime film about a former boxer with an autistic son who gets involved with a local gang. Recommended 15.
Carmine Street Guitars	Documentary about a guitar shop in Greenwich village and the owner Rick Kelly who makes custom made instruments, handcrafted from reclaimed wood found in old New York buildings. Some strong language, recommended certificate 15.
Children of the Sea	Japanese animation about a young girl drawn into a mystery involving sea life around the world. Recommended 15.
Closing Time	Documentary on a restaurant open throughout the night which attracts a variety of customers. Some adult themes primarily in conversation. Recommended 15.
Come to Daddy	A young music producer visits his estranged father only to find himself set upon by a gang of thieves who think he has their money. Contains strong language and violence. Recommended cert 18
Darlin'	A feral woman leaves her daughter in the hands of the church so they will raise her but returns to take revenge when she discovers they have been abusing her. Contains strong violence and language. Recommended cert 18
Days of the Bagnold Summer	British comedy about a teenager who spends his summer listening to heavy metal music and trying to get along with his librarian mom. Recommended certificate 15.
Dead Dicks	A woman visits her depressed brother, concerned about his wellbeing. A film about mental health that's dressed up as a horror film. Contains some natural nudity, scenes of suicide and some moderate violence. Recommended cert 15
Dogs Don't Wear Pants	A guilt-stricken widower discovers that a demanding dominatrix might be able to give him the therapy he needs. Recommended certificate 18.
Doomed Beauty	Documentary about the most famous actress in Czechoslovakia in the 1940s who became the lover of Nazi Joseph Goebbels. Includes some adult themes, recommended certificate 15.
Door Lock	Thriller about a woman who is convinced someone is breaking into her flat when she's not there. Contains some strong violence and moderate threat. Recommended cert 15
Enamorada	An aristocrat falls for a rebel leader during the Mexican revolution of 1917. Contains mild sex references. Recommended cert PG
Extra Ordinary	Comedy about a driving instructor who can speak to the dead. When a neighbour's daughter is possessed she must perform an exorcism to save her. Some scenes of moderate comedy violence and bad language. Recommended 15 cert
Five Million Dollar Life	A Japanese drama about a young man who is trying to defy his terminal illness and the public spotlight he has attracted. Recommended 15.
Forman vs Forman	Biographical documentary film about Czech film director Milos Forman who went on to make films like One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest in Hollywood. Some adult themes but no explicit material, recommended certificate 12A.

Free Lunch Society: Come Come Basic Income	Documentary about Universal Basic Income, no contentious material though aimed at adults, recommended certificate 12.
Genesis	Coming of age drama about a group of Canadian teenagers and their first experience of relationships. Includes some strong language and non-explicit sex scenes. Recommended certificate 15.
Ghost Tropic	Gentle Belgian drama about a cleaning lady who falls asleep on the subway and has to make her way home on foot through Brussels in the early hours of the morning. Occasional strong language, recommended certificate 15.
Go Home	A zombie outbreak traps a right wing protester in an immigration centre forcing him to reconsider his beliefs. Contains some strong violence and language. Recommended cert 18
God Exists, Her Name is Petrunya	Macedonian feminist satire about a woman who defies a conservative community by intruding on a religious ritual meant only for men. Includes some strong language and non-explicit sex scenes, recommended certificate 15.
Harpoon	Three friends find themselves adrift on a yacht with no fuel, food or water. As tempers flare their resentment of each other turns to violence. Contains strong violence and language. recommended cert 18
Heavy Trip	A young man is trying to overcome his fears by leading the most unknown heavy metal band in Finland to the hottest metal festival of Norway. Recommended 15.
House of Hummingbird	Coming of age drama about a teenage girl finding her place in 1990's Seoul. Moderate violence. Recommended cert (15)
Jesus Shows You the Way to the Highway	A CIA operative is sent into a virtual world where his avatar has to try and defeat a Russian computer virus. Contains mild violence and moderate threat. Recommended cert 15
Just Mercy	True story of Harvard-educated lawyer Bryan Stevenson who goes to Alabama to defend the disenfranchised and wrongly condemned. Recommended 15.
Kes: Reimagined	Film version of the stage adaptation of Kes about a boy from a Barnsley council estate who owns a kestrel. Recommended certificate PG
Land of Ashes	Dreamlike rites of passage film about a teenager left to look after her grandfather alone. Includes some strong language and non-explicit sex scenes, recommended certificate 15.
LAPŪ	Experimental documentary on Colombian ritual of burial. Dark themes abound. Recommended 18.
Let There Be Light	A father returns home at Christmas to discover his eldest son Adam has joined a para-military youth group. Some moderate violence. Recommended certificate 15.
Mallory	Czech documentary about a struggling mother who has long struggled with homelessness and drug addiction but strives to build a new future for herself. Includes some adult themes, recommended certificate 15.
Matthias & Maxime	LGBTQ+ love story surrounding male friendship transformed by a kiss in a student film. Moderate sexual activity and references to drug abuse. Recommended cert (15)
Moffie	Coming-of-age war drama set in South Africa with infrequent strong violence. Recommended 18.
Mutant Blast	In a dystopian future a super soldier escapes from a government facility. A nuclear bomb is dispatched to kill him but the blast causes mutations in humans and animals. Contains strong violence and threat. Recommended cert 18
Oleg	Gritty social thriller about a Latvian man in Belgium who find himself in modern day slavery. Strong scenes of violence and threat. Recommended cert (18)
One Last Deal	Finnish comedy drama about a retiring art dealer whose last transaction is his greatest test. Recommended PG.
Patrick	Belgian dark comedy set in a nudist colony. Features non-sexual male and female nudity. Recommended 15.
Promare	Japanese animation about an epic battle between mutants. Recommended 15.
Punk the Capital: Building a Sound Movement	Music documentary about the punk scene in Washington DC in the early 80s. Includes some strong language, recommended certificate 15.
Recorder: The Marion Stokes Project	Documentary on television archivist Marion Stokes. Occasional images of violence. 15A.

René	Documentary made over many years about a Czech man who has long running problems with crime and imprisonment. Includes some strong language and adult themes, recommended certificate 15.
Ride Your Wave	Japanese animation about a surfer and firefighter meeting and falling in love. Recommended 15.
Rough Remote Rumble	Black and white documentary on rural stonecutting in Spain. No contentious issues. Recommended PG.
She is the Other Gaze	Documentary on Austrian feminist video artists. Occasional strong language. Recommended 15.
Sheep Hero	Documentary on renegade farmer in Holland. Occasional strong language. Recommended certificate 15.
Sons of Denmark	Danish thriller about the racial tensions amid a terrorist attack in Copenhagen. Recommended 18.
Synonyms	Dramedy about an Israeli man who moves to Paris and tries to adopt the language and culture. Strong scenes of a sexual nature. Recommended cert 18
Tammy & the T-Rex	A teenager has his brain put in an animatronic T-rex and goes after the bullies that harassed him and his girlfriend. Contains strong comedy violence. Recommended cert 18
The Atom: A Love Affair	Documentary about the history of nuclear power. No contentious material, recommended certificate PG.
The Cave	Dramatisation of the Thai cave rescue using many of the real life divers. Moderate physical threat. Recommended cert (12A)
The Fading Village	Documentary on a Chinese village in decline. No majorly adult themes. Recommended certificate 12.
The Fall of the Romanov Dynasty	Silent documentary film covering the events in Russia from 1913 to 1917. Recommended cert U
The Gangster, The Cop, The Devil	Thriller from South Korea about a crime boss who teams up with a cop to track down a serial killer. Frequent strong violence. Recommended certificate 18.
The Gasoline Thieves	Thriller following a teenage boy who is lured into illegal gasoline extraction. Strong scenes of violence. Recommended cert (18)
The Grand Bizarre	Experimental documentary. Devoid of any explicit or contentious content. Recommended certificate U.
The Hidden City	Experimental, dialogue-free documentary exploring the subterranean world beneath the modern city. No contentious material, recommended certificate PG.
The Incredible Shrinking WKND	During a weekend away a woman suffers an unexpected break-up with her boyfriend. Forced to relive the same events over and over, she must try and figure out why time is repeating. Contains mild bad language, sexual innuendo and mild drug references. Recommended cert 12A
The Juniper Tree	A widowed farmer's son resists his new stepmother's attempts to win him over. Contains disturbing scenes of psychological threat and horror. Recommended cert 15
The Seer and the Unseen	Documentary on Icelandic seer who provides advice to the government on elves. Recommended cert 12.
The Watermelon Woman	An aspiring black lesbian filmmaker researches an obscure 1940s black actress billed as the Watermelon Woman. Contains moderate sex and nudity. Recommended cert 15
The Whistlers	Playful noir thriller about a corrupt detective who learns a whistling language to communicate with criminals. Scenes of a sexual nature and violence. Recommended cert (18)
The Wild Goose Lake	A contemporary Chinese noir crime thriller featuring infrequent strong violence. Recommended 18.
The Wolf's Call	In the near future, a French submarine finds itself in a crisis situation. Recommended 15.
Vivarium	In this American sci-fi a young couple looking for the perfect home find themselves trapped in a mysterious labyrinth-like neighbourhood of identical houses. Recommended 15.
W.I.T.C.H. - We Intend to Cause Havoc	Documentary about a famous African rock band from the 70s. No contentious material but it is showing in a club venue for adults only.
Waves	Two young couples navigate through the emotional minefield of growing up and falling in love. Recommended 15.
We Are Little Zombies	Japanese drama about 4 orphaned siblings who decide to move on from the loss of their parents and start a band. Recommended 15.

Wend Kuuni	Members of an African village adopt a mute 5-year-old boy found in the wilderness. Contains a brief scene of threat and horror. Recommended cert 12A
White Snake	A girl with magical gifts embodies the Chinese legend of the White Snake, in a land of magic, demons and plenty of snakes. Recommended PG.
Why Don't You Just Die?	A young man turns up at his girlfriend's apartment to kill her father only to discover he is a police detective who intends to fight back. A frenetic comedy action thriller containing very strong violence and language. Recommended cert 18
Windrush: Movement of the People	Film of a dance performance about Windrush by Leeds-based Phoenix Dance. Recommended U.
Zizotek	Greek drama about an abandoned 9 year old boy who builds a friendship with a mute loner who lives in a shack in the woods. Includes a non-explicit sex scene, recommended certificate 15.