

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 attached at **Appendix A** for Member's consideration.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 An application has been received from Oxygen to have one short film certified as it is not currently certified by the BBFC. The film is scheduled for screening at Everymen Cinema on the 11th November 2019, followed by a further screening at Hyde Park Picture House on the 21st November 2019.

3.2 Details of the film requiring certification, are as follows:

Title	Pulse
Synopsis	Tells of the inner conflict Will faces when coming to terms with his sexuality, exploring his acceptance and love through stylised, surreal continuous movement; battling his denial and faith.
Recommended Classification	12A

A representative from Oxygen Films will attend the hearing to give additional details of the film.

4.0 Screener

4.1 A link to the screener provided by the applicant is password protected and non-viewable by the general public. 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 Content Summary

5.1 To assist members with their deliberation of the film, the below report has been written by the Licensing Authority in accordance with BBFC guidelines.

5.2 There are two instances within the short film that exhibit kissing, which according to the BBFC is considered mild sexual behavior.

5.3 A scene that may be considered controversial is the penultimate scene showing the main character holding a gun. The camera then pans to a group of people before slow strobe lighting represents the firing of the gun. The same group of people lie dead on the floor in an artistic representation of blood using red garments and what appears to be rose petals. No emphasis is placed on injuries or blood, and it is justified by its context representing the main characters emotions.

6.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

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

7.0 Legal and Resource Implications

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

8.0 Recommendations

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

8.2 Members may take the decision to view any of the films prior to the issue of a Certificate.

9.0 Options Available to Members

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