



Age Ratings You Trust

191st BBFC Board of Classification Meeting

Wednesday 17 May 2017

Present:

Patrick Swaffer	President
Alison Hastings	Vice President
Gerard Lemos	Vice President
David Austin	Chief Executive
Alexandra Evans (minutes)	Policy Director

Minutes of the previous meeting

1. The minutes were agreed.

Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising.

Developments in the self-regulatory space

3. It was agreed that a standing agenda item should be created to discuss innovative solutions to providing content advice online.

Action: Alexandra Evans and Amy Brooks

International co-operation

4. David Austin updated the group on plans to visit the Australian and Singaporean classification bodies in June to share ideas around best classification practice. Chief Operating Officer, Dave Barrett, will join him in Australia.

5. Mr Austin also briefed the group on his proposal for a joint project with a European regulator. Mr Austin will prepare a note setting out further details.

Action: David Austin

6. It was agreed that a standing agenda item should be created to discuss co-operation with international regulatory bodies.

Action: Alexandra Evans and Amy Brooks

Digital Economy Act 2017

7. Murray Perkins and Dave Miles attended the meeting to update the Board on the BBFC's preparations for its proposed designation under Part Three of the Digital Economy Act 2017.

8. The Digital Economy Act received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. When the new offence comes into force next year, it will be illegal to make pornography available online on a commercial basis without ensuring that it is not normally

accessible to children. It will also be illegal to make "extreme pornographic material" available online – irrespective of whether or not it is behind effective age verification barriers.

9. The new law empowers the regulator to request payment providers and other ancillary service providers to withdraw services, and to require ISPs to block non-compliant websites.
10. Over the coming months, Government will lay before Parliament, further details about the regulatory framework including guidance on what constitutes effective age verification, the definition of "commercial basis" and "ancillary service provider" and appeals procedures. It will also propose an Age Verification Regulator. Following an exchange of letters with Government last year, it is anticipated that the BBFC will be proposed as the regulator.
11. The law is due to come into force in mid-2018 but designation of the proposed regulator is unlikely to be confirmed until the end of 2017. Whilst not wishing to pre-empt the Parliamentary process, the BBFC has agreed with HMG to begin preparations for its proposed role.
12. Mr Perkins and Mr Miles briefed the Board on all aspects of the BBFC's preparatory work including: stakeholder engagement; establishing regulatory standards; defining work-streams; setting timelines; and finance.
13. It was agreed that the briefing was very useful and that a standing item on the Digital Economy Act should be added to the monthly agenda.

AOB

14. A revised date for the next meeting was agreed.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 13 June 2017