



Age Ratings You Trust

The Minutes of the 180th BBFC Board of Classification Meeting

Wednesday, 20 April 2016

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.
2. As part of the Board of Classification's commitment to openness and transparency, the meeting agreed that minutes for this meeting and all future meetings will be published on the BBFC's website once they have been approved by Board members.

Report on Public Feedback on Classification Decisions

3. Operations Officer, Debbie Wright, attended the meeting to report on feedback received from the public over the previous month. This feedback will take place every quarter.
4. This quarter the BBFC received public feedback about the 15 classification of *Deadpool*, predominantly about the strength of the violence and sex in the film. While the film sat comfortably at 15 under our Classification Guidelines, the meeting agreed that *Deadpool* would be a good candidate on which to seek a wider public view during the next Guidelines consultation.
5. The BBFC also received feedback about *10 Cloverfield Lane* relating to threat and violence. This was a finely balanced decision that had divided classification bodies around the world, with a number awarding a 12A equivalent and others a 15 equivalent. Under our present Guidelines the level of threat and lack of strong detail in the violent moments were containable towards the upper end of the 12A category. The film would be another good candidate for review in the next Guidelines consultation.
6. Public feedback about *The Revenant* and *The Lobster* included concerns about animal cruelty. In both films the perceived cruelty was achieved through special effects.

Age Verification

7. David Austin updated the group on the Government's age verification consultation. The BBFC had submitted its response to DCMS and envisaged

that when Government has decided on a course of action, DCMS would publish the response, or at least excerpts from it, alongside other responses it received. The BBFC will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders as Government's plans evolve.

Action: David Austin and Alexandra Evans

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8. It was agreed that at the next meeting, the Board of Classification would hear presentations on, and consider, the application of the Protection of Children Act 1978.

Action: David Austin and Alexandra Evans

Date of next meeting:

Monday, 16 May 2016