

The Hon Ed Vaizey MP
Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH

25th July 2012

Dear Ed,

Re: Consultation on Exemptions to the Video Recordings Act

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the Government's consultation on the Video Recordings Act and specifically to the proposed changes to the current exemptions from statutory classification for music videos as set out in section 2 of the Video Recordings Act 1984.

Our response is consistent with the submission you have received from the BBFC, BVA, BPI, VSC and ERA. We support the Government's proposal to lower the existing content thresholds for exemption so that more products are brought within the scope of the age rating requirement (Part B, Option 2). We are also in full support of the criteria proposed by the BBFC, BVA, BPI, VSC and ERA under which videos would lose their exemption and need to be referred to the BBFC for age-appropriate classification. The proposed criteria are cases of strong violence, explicitly sexualised behaviour including nudity, racist, homophobic or other discriminatory behaviour or language, imitable dangerous behaviour, including drug and other substance misuse and repeated use of strong language.

We think that the above proposal is an effective way of both protecting children from unsuitable content and allowing consumers to make informed viewing choices.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Navin
MPA, Chief Executive

Cc: Chris Butler MPA, Chairman