

[REDACTED]
17 November 2008

Video Games Classification
Department for Culture, Media & Sport
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



*working together
to protect children in Angus*

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: VIDEO GAMES CLASSIFICATION: CONSULTATION

This response is on behalf of Angus Child Protection Committee (CPC). The CPC favours a hybrid classification system, i.e., British Board of Film classification ratings for all games for players over 12 and a Pan-European game information system ratings for under 12's.

We believe this option will work as it builds on a system which is already in place, with which parents and other stakeholders are already familiar. It also creates some consistency between the game and film industry in terms of ratings.

The flaw with the system is that there will be two sets of age ratings, which as Dr. Byron highlighted, may cause confusion. However, it is noted that the application of the Pan-European Game Information (PEGI) system is flexible in other countries where it has been adopted and therefore, it would appear that it would be possible to overcome any confusion which could exist.

We believe the advantages to this system exist in the consistency of the film and video game industry. The existence of the PEGI system also allows parents or young people who are purchasing films and video games from other countries or from the internet can have some understanding of the rating which has been put in place.

The system will work for the consumer, the games industry and retail industry as it builds on current experience. The other benefit is that there is consistency between the game and film industry and across Europe and the games industry is currently committed to it.

It is difficult to anticipate how the system will last into the future given the pace of change in the industry, internet and online gaming. Any system which is introduced will require on-going review to ensure that it is fit for purpose.

CHAIRPERSON: Gordon McIntosh
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (Child Protection)
TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR (Child Protection)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

We believe the system would work in the online environment, as parents would be familiar with the rating system that exists.

The determining factors or characteristics on whether a game becomes statutory are subject to classification at 12+, seems sensible. The only factor common to both which may need further clarification is around the definition of violence and what is permissible.

I hope this information is helpful. If you wish any further details please contact Kate Mearns, Development Manager, Child Protection at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon McIntosh', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

GORDON McINTOSH
Chairperson
Angus Child Protection Committee