



HOUSE OF COMMONS

[REDACTED]

ANDREW MILLER MP

The Rt Hon Andy Burnham
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Culture, Media and Sport

[REDACTED]

26th November 2008

[REDACTED]

Dear Andy,

Further to our brief conversation about the 'son of PEGI', I set out my thoughts below.

As I see it both PEGI and the BBFC have strengths but having looked into both systems, as well as the hybrid system outlined in the Byron review, I would strongly urge the Government to support a single PEGI classification system in this country.

PEGI was designed by gaming specialists in consultation with parents, consumer groups and others. Furthermore, PEGI's track record in online gaming is superior to BBFC who have no real capability in this area. Given the huge growth in the numbers of people playing games online, this is a real weakness in BBFC.

I am also aware that BBFC has a history of awarding age ratings to games rather less cautiously than PEGI. In fact, BBFC has downgraded a substantial number of PEGI rated '18' games to either '15' or, in some cases, even '12'. The potential result of this -- with a game played online for example -- could be a child in the UK playing a BBFC '12' or '15' rated game with an adult in Europe, where the game has received a PEGI '18' classification; potentially exposing them to material and behaviour which is not appropriate for their age. I don't believe that this would command the confidence of my constituents.



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Finally, PEGI is used in many countries across Europe: in a globalised market where our constituents can purchase games in many different countries, and play them online across borders, it is really important to have an age rating system which is as consistent as possible. To undermine PEGI in the UK, could be to undermine the whole system across Europe, leading to many individual national systems, as well as different systems on and off-line. I fear that this would be confusing for consumers.

I very much support the work that DCMS has been doing in this area and am extremely pleased by your department's commitment to child safety. I strongly support a robust and enforceable system of age ratings, to give parents the information that they need in deciding the types of games they want their children to play.

I believe a single PEGI system is the best means of delivering the Government's objectives in this area and I support it.

I hope you find this helpful.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew".

Andrew Miller MP