

## Consultation - Video Games Classification

In relation to the above, and having read the consultation document in full, I hope that you find the following comments helpful.

It is our view that the proposal recommended by Dr Byron following her review seems to be the most appropriate (namely the Hybrid System). The current system of classification in the UK (in terms of Films etc) is widely recognised and understood. It is therefore more appropriate to build upon this established and recognised system of classification rather than add to confusion further by introducing a new system which would mean that videos and D.V.D.s will have different ratings from computer games.

Where P.E.G.I. and the B.B.F.C. rating have reached different conclusions only the B.B.F.C. rating should appear. In each case, to avoid confusion the B.B.F.C. rating should always take precedence over the P.E.G.I. rating.

However, whilst this is the "best" system to adopt, it is important that any proposal should be "future-proofed", particularly because the purchase of computer games from shops may be replaced in the future with buying and downloading them online. Whilst it is not within our remit or skills to identify a method to remedy this problem, in the future the B.B.F.C. may lose control over licensing if games can be downloaded from non-UK domains or even played online without the need to download the game. This is a well founded concern. Perhaps in the future it will therefore be necessary to rely on compliance from internet service providers to ensure enforcement of UK classification regime.

Anne Salter  
Lead Officer Child Protection  
(On behalf of) Stirling Child Protection Committee