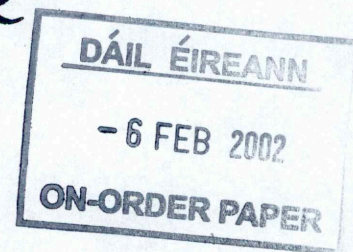


PN. 11032

ANNUAL
REPORT
OF THE
OFFICIAL CENSOR
OF FILMS
FOR 2000



TENTH REPORT OF THE OFFICIAL CENSOR UNDER THE
VIDEO RECORDINGS ACT, 1989.

TO : Mr [REDACTED]
MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, EQUALITY & LAW REFORM

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 2000.

The Video Recordings Act, 1989 the main purpose of which is to control and regulate the supply and importation of video recordings, was enacted on 27th December, 1989. Section 29 of the Act provides for the making by me, and the Censorship of Films Appeal Board, of annual and special reports to the Minister for Justice Equality & Law Reform on our activities under the Video Recordings Act, 1989 and the Censorship of Films Acts, 1923 to 1992.

[REDACTED]
OFFICIAL CENSOR

VIDEO WORKS

GENERAL

The Video Recordings Act, 1989 provides for the control and regulation of the supply and importation of video recordings at three different levels. First, it provides for licensing of Wholesale and Retail video outlets. Second, it provides that the Official Censor may, on grounds specified in the Act, prohibit the supply of video works which he considers unsuitable for viewing. Third, it provides for classification of the video works in terms of suitability for viewing by different age groups. A person aggrieved by a prohibition order or by the classification of a video work may appeal the decision of the Official Censor to the Censorship of Films Appeal Board.

LICENCES

Licensing was brought into operation on 1st May, 1991. A licence is required for each premises and/or vehicle and/or place from which it is proposed to sell video recordings or let them on hire. Licences are valid for twelve months from date of issue.

The following licence fees are prescribed:-

Wholesale Licence	- £4,000
Retail Licence	- £ 100

In 2000, 7 Wholesale and 1,289 Retail Licences (1,253 premises and 36 vehicles) were issued.

The total amount received in 2000 in respect of **wholesale and retail licences** was **£162,600**.

PROHIBITION ORDERS

Section 7 of the Act was commenced with effect from 26 July, 1991. This section provides for the making of an Order prohibiting the supply of a video recording if it is considered that the work is unfit for viewing because :-

(a) the viewing of it would be likely to cause persons to commit crimes, whether by inciting or encouraging them to do so or by indicating or suggesting ways of doing so or avoiding detection,

or

(b) the viewing of it would be likely to stir up hatred against a group of persons in the State or elsewhere on account of their race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origins, membership of the travelling community or sexual orientation,

or

(c) the viewing of it would tend, by reason of the inclusion in it of obscene or indecent matter, to deprave or corrupt persons who might view it,

or

(d) it depicts acts of gross violence or cruelty (including mutilation and torture) towards humans or animals.

In 2000, Prohibition Orders were made in respect of 126 video works, details of which were published in Iris Oifigiuil.

CERTIFICATION, CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING

In May, 1994 the Minister made Orders commencing other sections of the Act i.e. the certification, classification and labelling provisions. With effect from 1st September, 1994, all new release video works (excluding exempted works) must be submitted to the Official Censor for certification and classification prior to their release on the market. Each certificated video work must carry a prescribed label showing that it is suitable for viewing by one of the following categories:-

- fit for viewing by persons generally
- fit for viewing generally but in the case of a child under the age of 12 years, only under parental guidance
- fit for viewing by persons aged 12 years or more
- fit for viewing by persons aged 15 years or more
- fit for viewing by persons aged 18 years or more

The following classification fees were prescribed:-

(a)	A video work for release on the rental market	-	£180
(b)	A video work for release on the sell-through market	-	£ 80
(c)	A video work which is a trailer	-	£ 20
(d)	A video work which is an advertisement	-	£ 20

The total amount received in 2000, in respect of video classification fees was £426,000.

Exempted Works

Certain video works (e.g. sport, music or religion) are exempt from classification. A detailed description of exempted works is contained in the Act.

Video Works presented for classification In 2000		CERTIFICATE GRANTED					
Category of Video Work	No.	GEN	PG	12	15	18	PROHIB
Works for release on the Rental market	838	110	122	65	293	235	13
Works for release on the Sell-through Market	2415	828	480	251	541	299	16
Trailers/Previews	1251	475	260	181	277	54	4
Advertisements	69	65	2	1	1	-	-
TOTAL	4573	1478	864	498	1112	588	*33

* In addition to the 33 works which were submitted for classification and which were prohibited, a further 93 works which were seized by the Gardai/Customs Officers were also prohibited.

REGISTERS

Registers of (a) Licence Holders (b) Prohibited Works and (c) Classified Works are available to the Public for inspection free of charge at the Official Censor's Office, 16 Harcourt Terrace, Dublin 2.

CERTIFICATES FOR COURT PROCEEDINGS

Under the Act there is provision for the issuing of certificates providing certain information which is admissible as evidence in any proceedings.

In 2000 the following certificates were issued:-

<u>Certificates</u>	<u>Number of Certificates Issued</u>
<u>Section 23 (3) (b)</u> Certificates indicating that Video Licenses were not in force in respect of certain premises	5
<u>Section 23 (3) (c)</u> Certificates indicating that Video Licenses were in force in respect of certain premises	nil
<u>Section 15 (3) (b)</u> Certificates indicating that Prohibition Orders were not in force in respect of certain works	28
<u>Section 15 (3) (c)</u> Certificates indicating that Prohibition Orders were not in force in respect of certain works	nil
<u>Section 14 (3) (b)</u> Certificates indicating that Supply Certificates were not in force in respect of certain works	29
<u>Section 14 (3) (d)</u> Certificates indicating that Supply Certificates were in force in respect of certain works	nil

FILMS

GENERAL

Under the Censorship of Films Act 1923 to 1992, the Official Censor of Films and the Censorship of Films Appeal Board are responsible for the censorship of films in Ireland. No picture may be exhibited in public by means of a cinematograph or similar apparatus unless and until the Official Censor has certified it as fit for exhibition.

The Official Censor shall certify a picture as fit for exhibition in public unless he is of the opinion that it is unfit by reason of being indecent, obscene or blasphemous, or because the exhibition would tend to inculcate principles contrary to public morality or would be otherwise subversive of public morality. In some cases, the Official Censor may indicate that part only of a picture is unfit for exhibition, and may grant a certificate on removal of such part. The Official Censor may also grant a limited certificate restricting viewing to certain classes of persons.

Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Official Censor may appeal to the Censorship of Films Appeal Board.

A total of £129,900 was received in Film Censorship Fees in 2000.

Films Presented for Classification In 2000				Official Censor's Decision	
Category of Films	Number of Films	Certificates Granted Without Cuts	Certificates Granted With Cuts	Rejected	Censor's Decision Appealed
Feature Over 60 mins	175	175	0	0	5
20 mins to 60 mins	1	1	0	0	0
Adverts, Shorts and Trailers under 20 mins	307	307	0	0	0
Educational Over 60 mins	*2	*2	0	0	0
Interest/ Topical/ Travel	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	483	483	0	0	5

* Included in total of 175 features. The total duration of Films presented for certification in 2000 was 330 hours. The total length of films where the Official Censor's decision was appealed was 9 hours, 22 minutes.

The 175 features with a duration of one hour or over were classified as follows:

Interest Topical Travel	Educational	General	Parental Guidance	Over 12	Over 15	Over 18	TOTAL
	*2	15	16	28	**70 (72)	**46 (44)	175

* Also included in figures across.

** Appeal Board overruled the Official Censor's Decision for two films and subsequently granted Over 15 Certificates to films that had been granted Over 18 Certificates by the Official Censor.

Of 175 films with a duration of 1 hour and over, 130 came from the following countries:-

United States 102; United Kingdom 22; Ireland 4; Germany 1; Australia 1.

Forty five films were co-produced by the following countries:-

United Kingdom/USA 4; USA/Germany 5; United Kingdom/France 1; USA/France 3;
Ireland/United Kingdom 6; Canada/United Kingdom 1; USA/Japan 3;
United Kingdom/Russia 1; USA/Australia 5; United Kingdom/Germany 1; Usa/Canada 1;
France/ Spain 1; Germany/Netherlands 1; United Kingdom/Spain 1; USA/ United
Kingdom/Germany 2; Ireland/United Kingdom/France 2; United Kingdom/USA/France 1;
France/Italy/Germany 1; United Kingdom/Ireland/USA 1; USA/Germany/France/United
Kingdom 1; Ireland/Italy/Germany/United Kingdom 1; Sweden/France/Germany/USA 1;
USA/France/Italy/Hungary 1.

STAFFING

The **Official Censor** is responsible for the overall censorship and administration of the Film Censor's Office. Under the Censorship of Films (Amendment) Act, 1992 **one whole-time Assistant Censor and seven part-time Assistant Censors** were appointed to assist the **Official Censor**.

In addition, there are 2 Higher Executive Officers (job-sharing), 2 Executive Officers, 1 Staff Officer (jobsharing), 3 Clerical Officers (one job-sharing); 1 Projectionist and 2 part-time Projectionists employed in the office.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
EQUALITY and LAW REFORM
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COMHIONANNAIS agus
ATHCHÓIRITHE DLÍ
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Baile Átha Cliath 2
Facsuimhir/Fax: (01) 676 1837

Clerk of Seanad
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

Enclosed is 3 copies each of Annual Report of Film Censor 2000 and Annual Report of Censorship of Film Appeal Board 2000. Please return (pink receipt) to me.



Corporate Services

20/12/01

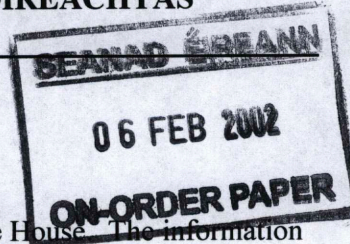
Houses of the Oireachtas

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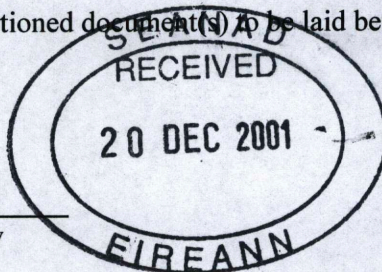
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DOCUMENT(S) TO BE LAID BEFORE HOUSE OF OIREACHTAS

Clerk of ~~Dail~~ and Seanad _____



I enclose copies* of the undermentioned document(s) to be laid before the House. The information sought below is as set out.



Head of Department or other body _____

1. Department or other body laying document	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.
2. Title of document	Annual Report of the Official Censor of Films for 2000.
3. If laid pursuant to statute, state Title and section of Act	Section 29(1) (a) of the Video Recordings Act, 1989.
4. Is there a statutory period in relation to the laying of the document? If so, give particulars	No
5. Is a motion of approval necessary?	No

*Three copies of the document in respect of each House, or six copies where it is to be laid before one House only.