

PN 6490

DÁIL ÉIREANN  
25 NOV 1998  
ON ORDER PAPER

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**FILM CENSOR**  
**FOR 1991**

Houses of the Oireachtas

SECOND REPORT OF THE FILM CENSOR UNDER THE  
VIDEO RECORDINGS ACT, 1989.

TO: MS. MAIRE GEOGHEGAN-QUINN, T.D.,  
MINISTER FOR JUSTICE.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1991.

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 the 27th December, 1989. Only two sections of the Act became operative on the date of enactment. They are section 29 which provides for the making by me and the Censorship of Films Appeal Board of annual and special reports to the Minister for Justice on our activities under the Censorship of Films Acts, 1923 to 1970 and the Video Recordings Act, 1989 and, section 30 which deals with the composition of the Appeal Board.

During 1991 further sections of the Video Recordings Act, 1989 were brought into operation by Order of the Minister which enabled me to perform certain functions under that Act. I continued, of course, to perform my functions under the Censorship of Films Acts, 1923 to 1970.



## VIDEOS

### General.

Three additional members of staff - 1 Higher Executive Officer, 1 Executive Officer and 1 Clerical Assistant were assigned to my office at the beginning of the year to deal with administrative work arising from commencement of the licencing and prohibition (see below) provisions of the Video Recordings Act, 1989.

Refurbishment works to my office were completed and a new computer system designed and installed.

### Regulations.

In February, 1991 Regulations were made commencing with effect from 1st May, 1991, the sections of the Act which require all video outlets at wholesale and retail level to be licensed.

In July, 1991 Regulations were made which empowered me, on grounds specified in the Act, to prohibit the supply of video films considered unsuitable for viewing. Regulations prescribing the manner of appeal against a Prohibition Order were also commenced in July, 1991.

### Licences.

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. A licence remains in force for 12 months from the date of commencement of the licensing period.



The following licence fees were prescribed -

Wholesale - £4,000

Retail - £100

From 1st May, 1991 to 31st December, 1991 1398 licences were issued. Details as follows:

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10	-	Wholesale
1292	-	Premises
95	-	Vehicles
1	-	Place

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Video Recordings-Register of Wholesale and Retail Licences.

These Registers are available and may be inspected free of charge by members of the public at my office at 16 Harcourt Terrace, Dublin 2.

Prohibition Orders.

Section 7 of the Video Recordings Act, 1989 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 of 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.

Up to 31st December, 1991 prohibition orders were made in respect of thirty-four video works. Details were published in Iris Oifigiuil on 22nd October and 17th December, 1991.

#### Register of Prohibited Video Works.

This Register is available to the public for inspection free of charge at my office at 16 Harcourt Terrace, Dublin 2.



FILMS

FILMS PRESENTED FOR  
CERTIFICATION

FILM CENSOR'S DECISION

CATEGORY OF FILM	NO.OF FILMS	NO.OF CERTIFICATES GRANTED		NO.OF FILM CENSOR'S DECISIONS APPEALED	NO.OF FILMS REJECTED
		WITHOUT CUTS	/ WITH CUTS		
<u>DRAMA &amp; VARIETY</u>					
Films over 5,000ft	175	167	1	6	1
2,000 to 5,000ft	1	1	-	-	-
Under 2,000ft	6	6	-	-	-
<u>TRAILER</u>	197	196	-	-	1
<u>EDUCATIONAL</u>	3	3	-	-	-
<u>INTEREST/TOPICAL/ TRAVEL</u>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>

The total length of films presented for certification in 1991 was 1,723,940 feet. The total length of the 6 films where the Films Censor's decision was appealed was 55,980 feet.

The 176 films of 2,000 feet and over came from the following countries:- USA 139; GREAT BRITAIN 13; IRELAND 3; FRANCE 11; GERMANY 1; AUSTRALIA 4; CANADA 1; ITALY 1.

Three films were co-produced by the following countries:- BRITAIN/NETHERLANDS 1; BRITAIN/FRANCE 1; SPAIN/ITALY 1.

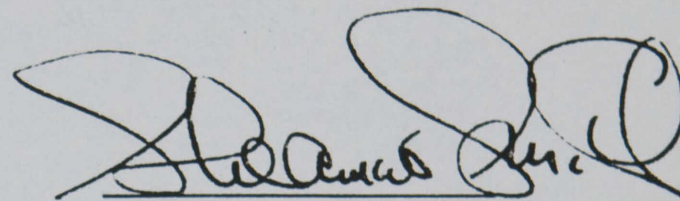


CERTIFICATES GRANTED BY FILM CENSOR IN 1991.

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	GENERAL	UNDER 12 YEARS (WITH AN ADULT)	OVER 15 YEARS	OVER 18 YEARS	TOTAL
<u>WITHOUT CUTS</u>	230	27	72	52	381
<u>WITH CUTS</u>	-	-	-	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>382</b>

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SHEAMUS SMITH.  
FILM CENSOR.

Houses of the Oireachtas







DOCUMENT(S) TO BE LAID BEFORE HOUSE OF OIREACHTAS

PW 6490

(25.11.1998)

Clerk of... Dáil .....

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

DÁIL ÉIREANN  
25 NOV 1998  
ON ORDER PAPER

[Redacted]

DAIL  
RECEIVED  
24 NOV 1998  
EIREANN

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 Film Censor for 1991
3. If laid pursuant to statute, state Title and section of Act .. .. .	Section 29(1) (a) of the Video Recording 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.



✓ S71 (25.11.1998)

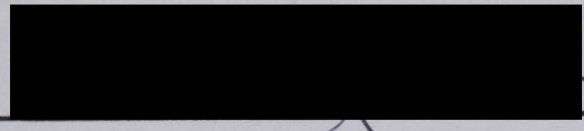
P.N. 6490

DOCUMENT(S) TO BE LAID BEFORE HOUSE OF OIREACHTAS

SEANAD ÉIREANN  
25 NOV 1998  
ON ORDER PAPER

Clerk of Seanad .....

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



SEANAD  
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24 NOV 1998  
ÉIREANN

p/p Head of Department or other body

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Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

2. Title of document .. .. .

Annual Report of the Film Censor for 1991

3. If laid pursuant to statute, state Title and section of Act .. .. .

Section 29(1)(a) of the Video Recording Act, 1989

4. Is there a statutory period in relation to the laying of the document?

If so, give particulars .. .. .

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