

PW 6492

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FILM CENSOR BOARD 1993

VIDEO RECORDINGS ACT, 1989.

MR. JOHN GALE, T.D.,
MEMBER FOR SERVICE

DAÍL ÉIREANN
25 NOV 1998
ON ORDER PAPER

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FILM CENSOR

FOR 1993

Houses of the Oireachtas

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

TO: MS. NORA OWEN, T.D.
MINISTER FOR JUSTICE.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1993.

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. Section 29 of that Act 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 Video Recordings Act, 1989 and the Censorship of Films Acts, 1923 to 1992.

During 1993 I continued to perform my functions under those sections of the Video Recordings Act, 1989 which had been brought into operation and, of course, I continued to perform my functions under the Censorship of Films Act, 1923 to 1992.

VIDEOS.

General.

Work was completed on the building of an extension to the Film Censor's Office to accommodate the additional administrative and censorship staff required to implement the certification and classification provision of the Video Recordings Act, 1989. This extension incorporates specially designed viewing booths for examination purposes in addition to general office accommodation for administration staff. During the year considerable progress was made on the design and development of computerised systems for the office.

Legislation.

The Censorship of Films (Amendment) Act, 1992 was enacted on 21 December, 1992. This Act enables the Minister for Justice to appoint assistant censors to assist the Official Censor in the performance of his functions. In August, 1993, the Minister made an Order commencing the provisions of the Censorship of Films (Amendment) Act, 1992. One whole-time Assistant Censor was appointed in October, 1993 and seven part-time Assistant Censors in November, 1993. Following a period of training and instruction they commenced the examination of video works which had been previously referred to the Office by the Gardai and Customs Authorities.

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 January, 1993 to 31st December, 1993, 1,629 licences were issued. Details as follows:

10	-	Wholesale
1,514	-	Premises
105	-	Vehicles

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 the Film Censor's 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.

In the year to 31st December, 1993 prohibition orders were made in respect of three hundred and four video works, details of which were published in Iris Oifigiuil.

Register of Prohibited Works.

This Register is available to the public for inspection free of charge at the Film Censor's Office at 16 Harcourt Terrace, Dublin 2.

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FILMS.

FILMS PRESENTED FOR CERTIFICATION

FILM CENSOR'S DECISION

Category of Film	No. of Films	No. of Certs Granted		No. of Film Censor's Decisions Appealed	No. of Films Rejected
		Without Cuts	With Cuts		
<u>Drama & Variety</u>					
Films over 5,000 feet	129	128	1	2	1
2,000 to 5,000 feet	2	2	-	-	-
Under 2,000 feet	2	2	-	-	-
<u>Trailers</u>	174	174	-	-	-
<u>Educational</u>	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Interest/Topical/Travel</u>	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	307	306	1	2	1

The total length of films presented for certification in 1993 was 1,312,570 feet. The total length of the 2 films where the Film Censor's decision was appealed was 16,290 feet.

The 131 films of 2,000 feet and over came from the following countries:-

United States 101; United Kingdom 9; France 4; Ireland 2; China 1; New Zealand 1; Mexico 1.

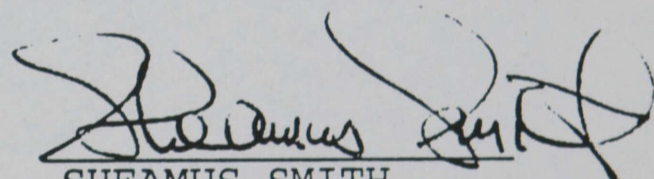
Twelve films were co-produced by the following countries:-

Australia/Canada/France/United Kingdom 1; United Kingdom/Europe/Russia 1; France/United States/Japan 1;

United States/United Kingdom/France 1;
France/Poland/Switzerland 1; Taiwan/China/United States 1;
France/Italy 1; United States/United Kingdom 1;
Australia/France 1; United States/Wales 1;
United States/Austria 1; France/United States 1.

CERTIFICATES GRANTED BY FILM CENSOR IN 1993.

	General	Under 12 Years (with an adult)	Over 15 Years	Over 16 Years	Over 18 Years	Total
Without Cuts	15	32	52	-	32	131
With Cuts	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	15	33	52	-	32	132


SHEAMUS SMITH.
FILM CENSOR.

Houses of the Oireachtas

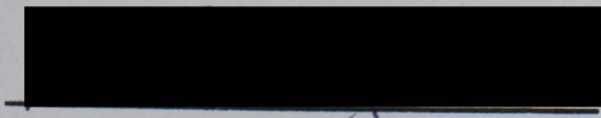
DOCUMENT(S) TO BE LAID BEFORE HOUSE OF OIREACHTAS

DÁIL ÉIREANN
25 NOV 1998
ON ORDER PAPER

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.

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 1993

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.

✓ S7H (25.11.1998)

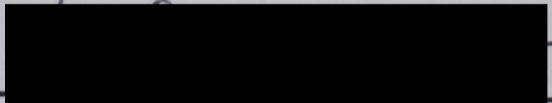
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DOCUMENT(S) TO BE LAID BEFORE HOUSE OF OIREACHTAS

SEANAD ÉIREANN
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Clerk of Seanad

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