From: To: Subject:

[EXTERNAL]FW: [EXTERNAL]Cineworld Screening Event Approval Query

**Date:** 08 October 2025 16:50:18

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Thanks again for your email and for your time this morning.

I can now confirm that the final showcase films have been selected and confirmed by the judging panel.

As discussed earlier on the phone, we do not foresee any issues with appropriateness of content and would regard all films selected as representative of a 12A BBFC rating.

In relation to the particulars you list, I can confirm that all are correct.

As we also spoke about, I can confirm that the youngest students in attendance are generally in Year 12 (not 11). This means that they would most likely fall into the 15/16 age bracket in any case.

All students will be under the supervision of their teachers when attending (they all tend to arrive in larger school groups) and in the case of some students, their parents will also attend in person.

It was good to receive clarification from you when we spoke earlier. Please let me know if you need any more information from me to progress this further.

Many thanks.

Ingrid

From:

**Sent:** 12 September 2025 20:04

To:

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL]Cineworld Screening Event Approval Query



Apologies for my delay in replying to you and thank you very much for your response and for offering some clarification around the grounds for this approval request.

Our showcase selection and judging process is almost over and I should be in a much better position to reply to you with more detail next week when it is completely finished (we have had over 200 films to review).

I should shortly be able to provide a response in relation to each of your points of understanding.

Thanks again for your patience and hopefully we can get an opportunity to discuss on the phone next week once I have sent you my reply.

## **Kind Regards**

From:

**Sent:** 19 August 2025 15:11

To:

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]Cineworld Screening Event Approval Query

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Tried to catch you on the phone to discuss the matter detailed within the email thread. Feel free to return to me via my mobile to discuss the issue. In the interim, I outline the following to assist in progressing with the approval you seek.

I confirm the Building Control Licensing Service deliver the statutory function of Cinema Licensing for Belfast City Council (BCC). Further to consideration of your email, the proposal to broadcast 'unclassified' films is the matter which falls within the scope of the Cinema (NI) Licensing Order 1991.

It is an established Condition of Management for all premises granted a Cinema Licence by BCC to only broadcast films which have been classified with a Certificate issued by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC).

However, a further Condition of licence granted by the Council does provide circumstances allowing for an unclassified film to be broadcast if it is satisfied with the film. In such circumstances, it is necessary for the request to be brought to Licensing Committee for determination.

To move forward in this matter, I set my understanding of particulars related to the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 proposal.

- No films will have received classification from BBFC or equivalent body
- Films to be broadcast are 'the top three films in six competitive categories'; the unclassified films will therefore have been viewed by the supervising teacher at the school in which the pupil attended, and, the examination board which assessed the submission prior to grading for the purposes of GCSE/A Level award
- With the assumption that schools have viewed the exhibitions to be broadcast, schools or CCEA will therefore be in a position to provide the Service written

confirmation, for example, that films have been viewed and would be considered to fall within the BBFC classification description of a 12a rated film;

- British Board of Film Classification 12a rating link BBFC | BBFC
- Children who will be in attendance at the exhibitions will be accompanied by teachers, who fulfill the requirement for a supervising adult to be present, as detailed by the BBFC description

If you are agreeable to the above particulars, and could provide the written response sought, a report will be taken forward to Licensing Committee in September with the aim of acquiring the approval you seek

Regards



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**Please Note:** We have implemented a new computer system and this has impacted processing of applications. It may take us a bit longer to respond to you, please bear with us and thank you for your patience.

From:

Sent: 12 August 2025 14:08

To: Building Control Licensing

Co:

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cineworld Screening Event Approval Query

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To Whom it may Concern,

I am the Education Manager for GCE and GCE Moving Image Arts at CCEA (Council for Curriculum, Examinations & Assessment Northern Ireland) and we run an annual awards showcase screening event in Cineworld showing the best films produced by our A-Level and GCSE students (representing schools from across Northern Ireland).

We are contacting you to request a council approval letter for the running of this event again in November 2025.

As a background, I can confirm that this will be the seventh year we will be running the

event in Cineworld (or previously Odyssey Cinemas) having run it in the QFT a number of years again prior to that - the showcase has been running annually in Belfast since 2007. We run the event with funding from Northern Ireland Screen and as part of the Foyle Film Festival and Cinemagic, our event delivery partners.

The event is due to take place this year on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025**. At the event, the top three films in six competitive categories will be screened to a live audience of 475 students, teachers, Principals and industry partners and stakeholders. Awards and certificates will then be handed out to the top three winning students in each category by filmmakers and industry professionals.

This year, for the first time, Cineworld head office in London have requested a local council approval letter in order to run the event (presumably in lieu of formal BBFC content certification, as the films being shown are amateur productions).

Having not been asked to provide this before, I contacted (copied into this email) and he recommended contacting you in the first instance.

I would be most grateful if you could confirm that this is something you can progress for us or if there is another department we need to approach.

Also, please let us know what further information you require or if there is any paperwork you need us to complete.

We are keen to progress this sooner rather than later as the event is promoted to schools across Northern Ireland from early September and up to 18 schools attend each year and tend to make their arrangements and book buses etc. well in advance – so we want to make sure the event booking is finalised and secured prior to such commitments from external stakeholders being made.

Many thanks in advance for your support in this matter.

**Kind Regards** 





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