



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

NOTICE OF DESIGNATION OF AGE-VERIFICATION REGULATOR

DIGITAL ECONOMY ACT 2017 – notification of designation under section 16(1) of a person as the age-verification regulator.

In accordance with section 17(1)(a) and (5) of the 2017 Act, particulars of the proposed designation were laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.

The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, designates the British Board of Film Classification under section 16(1) of the Digital Economy Act 2017 (“the 2017 Act”) as the age-verification regulator for the purposes of the functions of the age-verification regulator in the following sections of the 2017 Act:

- a. section 18 (regulator’s power to require information);
- b. section 19(2) and (11) (enforcement by regulator of section 14);
- c. section 21 (notice by regulator to payment-services providers and ancillary service providers);
- d. section 23 (regulator’s power to require internet service providers to block access to material), subject to section 24 (no power to give notice under section 23(1) where detrimental to national security etc);
- e. section 25 (guidance to be published by regulator);
- f. section 26 (exercise of functions by regulator); and
- g. section 28 (requirements for notices given by regulator under this Part) (to the extent that this applies in relation to the giving of notices by the British Board of Film Classification under the provisions listed in this paragraph).

In accordance with section 16(5) of the 2017 Act, the Secretary of State is satisfied that arrangements will be maintained by the age-verification regulator for appeals to which section 16(6) applies (where listed above), and that any person hearing an appeal under those arrangements will be sufficiently independent of the age-verification regulator. In accordance with section 17(1)(b), a statement of the reasons as to why the Secretary of State is satisfied about the matters mentioned in section 16(5) was laid before both Houses of Parliament.

Margot James
Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries
on behalf of the Secretary of State

YJS February 2018

