

HOME SCREENINGS BEATS BUS STRONG LANGUAGE TEAM PRESS

MENU

Scroll down for info on how you can have your say on the issue

THE BBFC CERTIFICATE

In the UK, films screening in cinemas need to be certified for an age rating by the British Board of Film Classification, who can make decisions for the country as a whole, or by a local council who can make a decision for the geographical area that they represent.

After being classified a 12A by Sheffield and Hull local councils, **A Northern Soul** was classified as a 15 by the BBFC, due to the perceived strong language in the film, namely, the total number of uses of the 'F word' that is above the recommended 4 uses of the term in any film. Exceptions to this rule can be granted, and the context is taken in to account – how the words are spoken, who they are spoken to and whether the language is deemed aggressive.

A Northern Soul counts 19 uses of the F word, 14 in conversational contexts – never directed at anyone, never in front of children, never aggressive or hateful – and 5 in a song performed by Akala in the film. We believe that the rating makes the film seem to have a significant amount of strong language – because 'strong language' is often heard in every day speech, many people have not even noticed it. **We are curious to question working class representation as a result of this.** Because of the disparity between northern councils assessments and the London-based BBFC's understanding – is there a class bias in the decision to award the film a nationwide 15 certificate? To say that this film, about an inspiring man is not appropriate for children under the age of 15 is also a double standards when we look at other films who are rated a 12A despite significant violence.

BBC – A Northern Soul director Sean McAllister defies film censors over 15 rating

Big Issue – Director slams censors as new film A Northern Soul is rated as a 15

The Times – Film-maker Sean McAllister holds free screening of A Northern Soul to defy censors

Press Association – Sean McAllister says new film empowers young people after censor row

Screen – Hull Council rules to defy 'A Northern Soul' BBFC 15 rating

Vice – This Film Shows the Reality of Life in Austerity Britain

BFI Why A Northern Soul challenges TV's 'war on the poor'

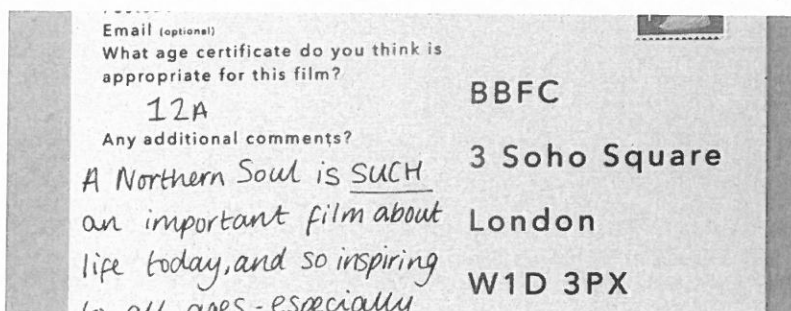
Huck Straight Outta Hull: Hope and hip hop in the age of austerity

The issue was also brought up in Parliament, by Hull MP Diana Johnson



ADD YOUR VOICE

The BBFC makes assessments based on ongoing public consultation. We are therefore keen to enable and encourage members of the public to share their thoughts about this issue.



You can do this in several ways:

– Contact the BBFC directly to share your opinion, you can

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A Northern Soul

last Tuesday

What do you think of the BBFC giving A Northern Soul a 15 certificate? Councils across the country are choosing to rate the film. Have your say! <http://anorthersoulfilm.com/strong-language/>



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