CI 52 J Davies

Please find below my responses to some of the questions on classification:

Question 2: *What should be the primary objectives of a national classification scheme?*
It should provide consistent and balanced information about the content of the classified material, particularly to protect the more vulnerable members of society from damaging exposure to inappropriate material and protect majority society values for the wellbeing of society

Question 3. *Should the technology or platform used to access content affect whether content should be classified, and, if so, why?*
Yes. Parental control is very difficult to implement for internet and computer games. Movies can at least have clear age restrictions.

Question 7: *Should some artworks be required to be classified before exhibition for the purpose of restricting access or providing consumer advice?*
In general serious art should not be subject to classification. However material that exploits vulnerable members of society (e.g. the sexualisation of children) ought not to be shown in public.

Question 8: *Should music and other sound recordings (such as audio books) be classified or regulated in the same way as other content?*
Yes.

Question 12: *What are the most effective methods of controlling access to online content, access to which would be restricted under the National Classification Scheme?*
There should be filtering to prevent access to the worst forms of exploitation (e.g. child pornography).

Question 14: *How can access to restricted offline content, such as sexually explicit magazines, be better controlled?*
Restricted material should only be sold in a separate area where no children are admitted.

Question 21: *Is there a need for new classification categories and, if so, what are they? Should any existing classification categories be removed or merged?*
The existing classification categories should largely remain. I would suggest removing the X18+ film category altogether and not classifying this material. Films which portray real sex acts and extreme violence should be refused classification. Very violent computer games should be refused classification.

Question 24: *Access to what content, if any, should be entirely prohibited online?*

RC, X18+ and R18+ should be prohibited to the general public. R18+ material could be made accessible under strict age verification conditions.

Dr John Davies