



Welcome

to the first in an occasional series of eNewsletters, keeping you informed of the work of the UK's Film Content Protection Agency.

FCPA is dedicated to keeping the UK theatrical film release cycle as safe and secure as possible – our mission is to make it as hard as possible for films to be copied illegally in the first place.

Formed in 2016, FCPA is a subsidiary of the trade body, Film Distributors' Association, and works in partnership with organisations across the UK and international industry.

Thank you to BAFTA and its voting members for working with FCPA to safeguard their screeners throughout the busy 2017/18 awards season.

Our latest rewards event

On 10 April we recognised vigilant members of staff from cinemas across the UK, who had acted to disrupt or prevent piracy.

25 staff members were handed a certificate and financial reward at a presentation in central London, hosted by FCPA.

Collectively these rewards represented 19 incidents in UK cinemas, between Sept 2017 and Feb 2018. Five of them led to arrests and a further seven to formal police cautions.

The films protected include the UK-made *Kingsman: The Golden Circle* and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*.

FCPA works around the clock to deliver complimentary anti-piracy training and current best-practice briefings to cinema staff UK-wide. In 2017, FCPA briefed more than 1,500 staff at 50 cinemas.



Today, 90% of pirated film files are sourced directly from cinemas around the world – and it is immensely important to us that they continue *not* to be sourced from the UK.



Congratulations to each of our rewards recipients, who convened for the presentation event from around the UK.

Director of FCPA, **Simon Brown**, commented: "As there have been some significant and successful interventions in recent months, today's event focuses on acknowledging the great work of these cinema staff members. We've also taken the opportunity to highlight the very attractive line-up of forthcoming releases and to ask for continued high levels of vigilance to help deter copyright theft and infringement."

FCPA regularly issues Vulnerable Release Alerts to UK cinemas, drawing attention to titles deemed to be particularly vulnerable to copyright theft and infringement. In 2018, VRA releases have ranged from *Finding Your Feet* to *Ghost Stories* and *Black Panther* to *Rampage*.

A special reward in Scotland



On 10 May, the Vue cinema in Easterhouse, Glasgow, will receive a reward from the **Scottish Anti Illicit Trade Group** (SAITG), recognising the team's outstanding performance in fighting IP crime in Scotland.

Specifically, last year, a man was observed at the cinema recording *Trainspotting 2* – he was detained and the police were called.

Formed in 2015, the SAITG brings together public and private sectors with the strategic aim of reducing the scale, impact and cost of illicit trade throughout Scotland.

SAITG members include Police Scotland, Trading Standards, HMRC and UK Border Force. Private sector members include representatives of the film, music, clothing, tobacco, sports broadcasting and other industries.

SAITG's Chair, Kenny McAskill, is a former Justice Minister for Scotland. FCPA currently holds the Chair of the enforcement sub-group.

The event on 10 May, at Celtic Park, Glasgow, will be a large forum for the IP community. FCPA is delighted that one of the two special awards presented by Mr McAskill will recognise the frontline work done to safeguard films in cinemas.

'Six Weeks of Spring'

FCPA launched a new initiative, 'Six Weeks of Spring' on 26 April, in order to encourage the highest levels of vigilance.

It is a period with a very appealing line-up of releases, many of which are released in the UK first or simultaneously with other markets – and so are regarded as particularly vulnerable to attempted illegal recordings in cinemas.

During the six weeks, cinema staff members who successfully use the informative resources on FCPA's website (part of www.launchingfilms.com) will be entered into a draw for weekly prizes of Amazon vouchers plus an overall cash prize of £500.



Good luck to all participating staff!

Intercepting and examining pirated stock

The wide availability of copyright-infringing DVDs and Blu-ray discs remains a challenge, detrimental to the UK film industry. It's been estimated that 1 in 3 Britons buys counterfeit discs or watches illegal content online (Ipsos research 2014).

FCPA is on the case! We make many test purchases, carry out expert examinations of the goods, and deliver packages of evidence based on the findings to the law enforcement community. We work closely with UK Border Force, Trading Standards and police forces, as required.

When a film is copied illegally, it can immediately and irrevocably reduce the value of that film in the UK and around the world.

FCPA deploys digital tech across all its workstreams, such as night vision devices and CCTV in cinemas and watermarks on digital cinema 'prints'.



Prosecutions

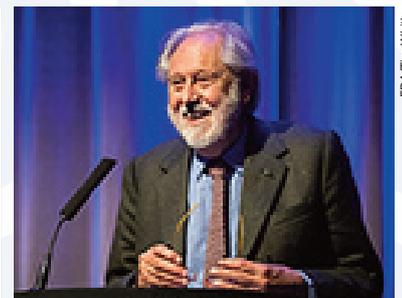
FCPA has two significant criminal prosecutions pending:

- A man from Sunderland appeared in court in March and pleaded guilty to several offences relating to the illegal recording of films in two local cinemas and then posting the infringing content online. He will be sentenced at Newcastle Crown Court in May.
- A man from Glasgow recently appeared in court there for attempting to record a film on a smartphone in a cinema last year. The case is now set for trial in May.

We'll keep you posted in our next issue!

A message from FDA President, Lord Puttnam of Queensgate CBE

As President of Film Distributors' Association, Lord Puttnam gave a keynote speech this month in which he made reference to the on-going scourge of copyright theft and infringement.



FDA/Tim Whitty

Lord Puttnam has a specific message for readers of this newsletter – [click here to read it online](#). Thank you.

Contact FCPA

Call the FCPA Director: 07920 725725



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Thank you.

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This eNewsletter has been sent by FCPA, part of Film Distributors' Association, 3 Kingly Court, London W1B 5PW, UK.

Film Distributors' Association

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