

Welcome

to the second eNewsletter keeping you apprised of the work of the UK's Film Content Protection Agency.

FCPA is dedicated to keeping UK theatrical film releases 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 October 2016, FCPA is a subsidiary of the trade body, Film Distributors' Association, and works in partnership with organisations in the film/cinema and law enforcement sectors in the UK and overseas.

You can access our first eNewsletter (April 2018) [here](#)



Latest criminal convictions for illegal recordings in UK cinemas

Earlier this summer two FCPA cases concluded with successful prosecutions – adding significantly to the case law confirming that film piracy in a cinema is a criminal offence.

In **Sunderland**, 21-year-old Jordan Quartermain was convicted of illegally recording



Mr Quartermain's recording device

17 newly-released films at two local cinemas over a 12-month period and posting them online.

FCPA worked on the case with Northumbria Police, who put Mr Quartermain under surveillance and arrested him in a cinema

committing a further offence. In Newcastle Crown Court he was sentenced to a two-year community service order with 200 hours of unpaid work.

In **Glasgow**, 41-year-old Ryan Finnegan was convicted of illegally recording a film in a local cinema last year – only the second time someone in Scotland has been convicted of such a crime and the first since 2011.

Mr Finnegan was spotted by vigilant cinema staff who referred the matter to FCPA. Following a multi-agency operation, Mr Finnegan was arrested



Mr Finnegan captured on infra-red CCTV in the act of illegally recording a film

by Police Scotland and charged with an offence under the Copyright Designs & Patents Act 1988. In Glasgow Sheriff's Court recently he was convicted and fined.

FCPA is looking forward to the next **rewards presentation** to UK cinema staff, which will take place in London in September. Dr Ros Lynch, Director of Copyright and IP Enforcement at the government's Intellectual Property Office, will join us to present the rewards. More in our next issue!

'Six weeks of spring' campaign

In April 2018, FCPA launched a 'Six weeks of spring' trade campaign, given a varied cluster of films opening either in the UK first or day & date with international markets.

Cinema staff, on whose vigilance we always rely, were entered into an **extra prize draw** if they successfully used the 'best practice' generic resources on FCPA's website during the campaign period. More than **4,500** individual staff members did so.

The positive impacts also included a surge in reports of disrupted illegal recording activities. **19** incidents were reported in the six weeks; most were attended and dealt with by local police.

Our thanks and congratulations go to the 'Six weeks of spring' prize winners from: **1.** Cambridge Arts Picturehouse, **2.** Cineworld Leeds, **3.** Empire Bishops Stortford, **4.** Light Cinema Wisbech, **5.** Odeon Bromborough and **6.** Vue Hamilton. The gallery below shows them receiving their prizes of Amazon vouchers:



Law and law enforcement matters

FCPA is proactively involved in various anti-piracy **investigations**. We're currently engaged in police operations targeting the import of high-quality pressed discs which are sold online. Thousands of discs have recently been recovered and reports submitted to underpin criminal prosecutions.

FCPA is an active member of **IP crime working groups**, reporting to government agencies, including the UK's Anti-Illicit Trade Working Group and the Scottish Illicit Trade Enforcement Group (of which FCPA currently holds the chair).

FCPA welcomes the report by the **All-Party Parliamentary Group**, published in July 2018, on illicit trade throughout the UK. Formed in 2017, the APPG explores the detrimental impacts of counterfeit trade across all sectors of industry and supports closer ties with parliamentarians. The new report (available here) notes that illicit trade continues to rise, stifling UK businesses and funding organised crime at all too little risk. Fake goods continue to be a scourge on UK jobs – and we reaffirm our shared commitment to preventing UK film piracy at source.

British IP Day 2018

Wednesday 4 July marked the third annual 'British IP Day', an initiative promoted by the trade group, the **Alliance for IP**. It's a celebration of the huge contribution that intellectual property makes, culturally and economically, across the UK.

Representatives of **IP businesses** met their local MPs to discuss how vital IP is to their work and future success. In the evening at the House of Commons, the Alliance held a well-attended summer reception, which included the presentation of an **IP Champion Award**.



A judging panel of experts from industry and politics decided that this year's IP Champion Award should go to Simon Brown, Director of FCPA, for his exceptional work in safeguarding the UK from illegal recordings in cinemas. In the first half of 2018 alone, more than 800 cinema staff members participated in FCPA's 'best practice' briefings on detecting and deterring offenders. Congratulations, Simon (above, with from left: Pete Wishart MP, Lavinia Carey OBE and Bill Bush, Chair of the Alliance for IP; and, right, his FCPA colleague, David Nolan).

For more on British IP Day, please visit www.allianceforip.co.uk/british-ip-day-2018-roundup

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