

Irish Film Classification Office publishes Strategy Statement 2026-2028

*Classifications of ‘Hamnet’, ‘28 Years Later: The Bone Temple’, and ‘The Housemaid’
subject to complaints received by IFCO*

Tuesday, 21st April 2026. The Irish Film Classification Office has today published its new Strategy Statement, which will guide its work to 2028. The new Strategy Statement provides a framework for planning and reporting on IFCO’s activities and performance as it continues to ensure that audiovisual content regulation empowers citizens and promotes plurality.

Among the objectives outlined in the Strategy Statement 2026 -2028 are to increase the number of films classified for cinema release; an enhanced programme of engagement with young audiences; and accelerated activity with major film festivals.

Commenting, Director of Film Classification, Dr Ciarán Kissane said:

“Our new Strategy Statement builds on our work over the last 3 years. Between 2023-2025, we increased the number of classified cinema releases year on year. This was, in part, driven by IFCO’s engagement with film festivals. Looking ahead, we will continue to prioritise partnerships that support the availability of a diverse range of audiovisual content and promote the role of the Office within the wider industry.”

*“We also want to strengthen our programme with younger audiences. Engagement with young people, their parents and guardians is essential to the work we do at IFCO. We will continue to focus our activities with this audience group to promote audiovisual content, and further their understanding of IFCO’s role in its regulation. New opportunities to engage with us include as part of the Dublin Learning City Festival 2026, where IFCO will host a special screening of the documentary *In the Opinion of the Censor*.”*

In the Opinion of the Censor is a feature length documentary commissioned as part of IFCO’s centenary programme in 2023. Drawing on contributions from historians, filmmakers, movie archivists and media commentators, as well as archival material, John Kelleher, Ireland’s last Film Censor and first Director of Film Classification, presents and narrates the fascinating history of film censorship.

A special screening followed by a Q&A with the film’s contributors and production team will take place on Wednesday 22nd April at 6pm at the Lighthouse Cinema, Smithfield, Dublin 7. More information and bookings, via the [Dublin Learning City website](#).

Complaints/Feedback

IFCO has also published complaints and feedback received in the first quarter of 2026. IFCO received 12 pieces of correspondence from Irish audiences in relation to six different films. Most correspondence related to the classification of *28 Years Later: The Bone Temple* (2026), *Hamnet* (2026), and *The Housemaid* (2025). The nature of most correspondence related to concerns about classifications being too lenient. Seven items of correspondence were considered a complaint in accordance with IFCO's Complaints Procedure. IFCO responded to all correspondence received.

IFCO classified 188 films and 186 trailers for cinema release in Q1 2026. This compares to 192 films in Q1 2025. Trailers are up by 40 on the Q1 2025 figure.

Commenting, Director of Film Classification, Dr Ciarán Kissane said:

“As set out in our new Strategy Statement, we are committed to maintaining a high level of audience confidence in our classification and advise. At IFCO, we provide classifications and guidance that empower citizens and help them make informed decisions on the audiovisual content that they and their children watch. Audience feedback on our classification decisions is welcome, specially from parents or guardians. It helps us inform our thinking going forward and guide future decisions. The feedback helps us ensure that our classifications remain relevant and supports the ongoing evolution of our classification and guidance activities”

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Notes to editors:

- Director of Film Classification, Dr Ciarán Kissane is available for interview on request.
- The IFCO Strategy Statement 2026 – 2028 can be found [here](#)
- The development of the Strategy Statement 2026-2028 was informed by a review of IFCO's current position in relation to its previous Strategy Statement 2023-2025 and independent targeted stakeholder research, which is published on the IFCO website separately and can be found [here](#).
- *In the Opinion of the Censor* is directed by Andrew Gallimore and Lydia Monin. The documentary is produced by John Kelleher Media and supported by IFCO, Oireachtas TV, Coimisiún na Meán and Caireann Associates.
- A special screening of the documentary *In the Opinion of the Censor* as part of Dublin Learning City Festival 2026 takes place on Wednesday 22nd April at 6pm at the Lighthouse Cinema, Smithfield, Dublin 7. More information and bookings, via the link [here](#)

About IFCO:

Oifig Aicmithe Scannán na hÉireann The Irish Film Classification Office (IFCO) is a statutory body under the aegis of the Department of Culture, Communications & Sport. It is responsible for examining and certifying all cinema films and DVDs distributed in Ireland that are not otherwise exempt from classification. IFCO also licences retail and wholesale outlets that sell DVDs. Established on a statutory basis pursuant to the Censorship of Films Act 1923, the role of the Office has been expanded by the various censorship of films acts and the Video Recordings Act, 1989. Its name was changed from Film Censor's Office to The Irish Film Classification Office in 2008 to reflect its changing role - from censorship to providing age classifications and advice. The IFCO's decisions are legally binding, and all powers of prohibition remain. The decisions of IFCO are independent and can be appealed to the Classification of Films Appeal Board. Website: www.ifco.ie