

NEWSLETTER

Please note: You have received this e-Newsletter because you have already had some professional contact with us or have opted to receive it. Your data is a precious asset, which the FCPA will safeguard. We only retain data we use – your name and email address – and will not share or use it for any other purpose. You can unsubscribe at any time by emailing fcpa@fda.uk.net

WELCOME

To the first of our e-Newsletters for 2022, and the first since the Covid pandemic. The aim of these *ad-hoc* publications is to keep you informed of the work of the Film Content Protection Agency (FCPA) in the UK and Ireland. The FCPA is dedicated to keeping the theatrical film release cycle in our territory as safe and secure as possible.

Our mission is to make it as difficult for offenders to illegally record films in cinemas here. Formed in 2016, the FCPA is a subsidiary of the trade body the Film Distributors' Association (FDA) and works in partnership with organisations across the UK, Ireland and internationally ●

Hollie Wild from Cineworld Sheffield with Simon Brown, FCPA



“WILD” ABOUT WINNING

One of the FCPA’s core objectives focusses on the development of anti-piracy awareness and vigilance amongst those who work in cinemas across the UK and Ireland. To support this our online resources include the provision of a multiple-choice quiz for cinema-staff, with a winner being randomly selected ever quarter.

LATEST WINNER

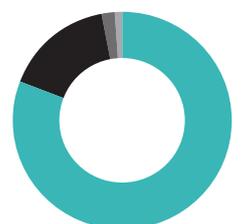
Congratulations to Hollie Wild from Cineworld Sheffield, who was selected as the latest winner and received her £1,000 prize this week.

Hollie’s winning entry was one of over 3,500 successful entries that quarter (Q1 2022). Cineworld continue to dominate exhibitor staff engagement with this particular resource and accounted for 81% of all entries.

Shaun Jones, VP of Operations (UK & Ireland) at Cineworld said: “I know all of our cinema and operations teams have been working hard on this, this is a top priority for us and will remain so going forward. It should be a mandatory part of the recruitment and learning journey for all cinema staff, irrespective of employer” ●

FCPA Quiz entries: Q1/2022

- Cineworld 81%
- Vue 16%
- Odeon 2%
- Others 1%



The main focus of the FCPA's work is to prevent infringing (pirated) versions of films originating from cinemas in the UK and Ireland.

FILM PIRACY IN THE UK



FCPA works with cinema operators, law enforcement and other bodies in the UK, Ireland and worldwide.

Film theft remains an ongoing and significant problem to the industry and those who work in it. The majority (90%+) of pirated versions of newly released films are still sourced in cinemas by illegal activity involving the use of compact digital recording devices – mostly smartphones.

By protecting copyright, not only are creators' rights upheld, but also importantly, the industry's own capacity to reinvest and to develop new projects and talent is enhanced. The UK and Ireland is one of the world's leading markets for filmed entertainment ●

- > Spot
- > Report
- > Reward

Arrests made following recent FCPA investigations

Earlier this year, an infringing "camcorder" version of *Spider-Man: No Way Home* was found online soon after theatrical release. Specialist digital film forensics traced the version to a cinema in **Leeds, West Yorkshire**. A subsequent investigation by the FCPA led to the identification of a suspect.

The suspect was arrested at an address in **Dewsbury** in June by officers from the Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU), who also seized a number of items as evidence and for further examination. The investigation continues.

Cinemas in this area had not previously been involved in such high-impact cases, and this serves as a reminder that film source-piracy remains a constant and unpredictable threat ●



FCPA RESOURCES

Cinema operators – please contact the FCPA if you are interested in some complimentary anti-piracy awareness training for your staff – it can be tailored to your needs if necessary.

Posters and information cards for staff are also available – please drop us a line if you need any ●

MULTI-AGENCY ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY: INTERCEPTING AND EXAMINING PIRATED GOODS – DVDS, ETC

The widespread availability of copyright-infringing illicit streaming devices ("IPTV"), DVDs and Blu-ray discs remains a challenge and is clearly detrimental to the film industry in the UK and Ireland. The FCPA continues to work closely with law enforcement throughout the UK and Ireland to investigate copyright-infringing illicit streaming devices, DVDs and Blu-rays.

The FCPA is able to assist Law Enforcement bodies in any such cases by making test purchases, carrying out expert examinations and delivering evidence-packages. At present we are working on numerous cases with various bodies across the territory including Police, Trading Standards, Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and the Border Force (UKBF).



Counterfeit goods seizures worth £500,000 – Southwark Borough Council

There have been several significant successes in recent months, including IPTV enforcement actions in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Manchester and Newcastle. As a result, numerous infringing websites and IPTV services have been dismantled.

Other investigations in Suffolk, Swansea and Bromley have led to seizures of thousands of counterfeit discs ●