

NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME, AND WISHING YOU A HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

The aim of these regular newsletters is to keep you informed of the work of the Film Content Protection Agency (FCPA) in the UK and Ireland. FCPA is dedicated to keeping the UK theatrical film release cycle as safe and secure as possible.

Our mission is to make it as difficult as possible for offenders to illegally record films in cinemas here. Formed in 2016, 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 ●

FCPA Q4 Enhanced Vigilance Campaign

The arrival of Autumn brought the anticipation of numerous new and exciting theatrical releases in cinemas nationally, but inevitably this also came with the potential associated risks of source-piracy.

FCPA/FDA therefore launched a period of enhanced vigilance for Q4, whereby the maximum available reward for cinema staff was increased from £1,000 to £1,500. This will apply from 1 October to 31 December inclusively, after which it will revert to £1,000 ●

FILM PIRACY IN THE UK

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

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 ●



FCPA Autumn campaign

Arrest following high-impact FCPA Investigations in Liverpool

A 23-year-old Romanian male was arrested in September following a series of high-impact source-piracy incidents at two cinemas in Liverpool.

The seizure and examination of several online pirated films between June and August 2022 showed (via film forensics) that they had been sourced at two cinemas in the city. In all cases these “cammed” versions had appeared online as global first-versions, hence collectively causing a significant detrimental impact on the industry and all who work in it.

Complex investigations were conducted by FCPA over the summer and subsequent multi-agency collaboration with Law Enforcement (PIPCU, City of London Police), the IPO (Intellectual Property Office) and the cinema operators identified the suspect. He was then arrested in Liverpool in a joint operation with PIPCU and the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (NWROCU). A number of items were seized as evidence and the investigation continues. In the meantime, he has been bailed under a strict and far-reaching condition of “NOT TO ENTER ANY CINEMA IN THE UK” ●



 @CityPolicePIPCU

Showcase and Odeon cinemas, Liverpool



WELL DONE KIRSTY!

Congratulations to Kirsty Dickson from Cineworld Dundee, who was presented with a reward in November for her crucial part in identifying a customer illegally recording a film at the cinema earlier this year.

Shaun Jones, VP of Operations at Cineworld (UK & Ireland) joined us in our thanks, stating:

“Well done Kirsty! Deterring cammers is an extremely important part of our work at Cineworld to protect the content that we play. I’m grateful for the action taken, keep up the good work.” ●

Kirsty with (left) Richard Henderson, GM at Cineworld Dundee and Simon Brown, FCPA

FCPA QUIZ

– for cinema staff

One of 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. For October to December this year we are also supplementing the prize with additional monthly ones.

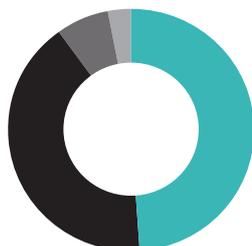


Congratulations to **Emá Háberová** from Vue Worcester, (above) and **Dillon Bates** from Showcase Cinema de Lux Derby, (below) who were recent quarterly and monthly winners, and received their cash prizes last week ●



FCPA Quiz entries: Q3/2022

- Cineworld 49%
- Vue 41%
- Odeon 7%
- Others 3%



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

The consumption of infringing (pirated) film content has largely moved online over recent years, facilitated by faster broadband speeds and the growth of illicit streaming devices (“IPTV”).

Nonetheless pirated “hard-goods” – primarily DVDs and Blu-ray discs, continue to pose a threat to the film industry. FCPA continues to work closely with law enforcement throughout the UK and Ireland to investigate and disrupt such activity.

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 including Police, Trading Standards, Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and the Border Force (UKBF) ●



Example of recently seized counterfeit DVDs

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[EMERGENCIES 999](#)
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Three arrested for copyright offences

Today (Tuesday 2nd August), officers from the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit working with the City of London Police's Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU), Police Scotland, Intellectual Property Office (IPO), and the Film Content Protection Agency (FCPA) carried out simultaneous search warrants across Scotland as part of the continuing fight against illegal streaming.

Officers visited three addresses in Sterling, Glasgow and Edinburgh and seized a variety of equipment in relation to the provision of internet protocol television (IPTV), an illegal service providing access to premium content including TV, films and sport.

A 54 year old man from Edinburgh, a 28 year old man from Glasgow and a 66 year old man from Sterling were all arrested on suspicion of infringement of copyright.

Above: <https://bit.ly/3uR4uha>
Below: <https://bit.ly/3uMrBcX>

Crime
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Bonnybridge Del-Boy now doing time for fake Rolex scam

A criminal wheeler dealer was the perpetrator of a scam that saw him make cash selling a haul of fake goods that would have cost a total of around £650,000 if they were the real thing.

By Corut Reporter
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