



**Australian Government**  
**Classification Board**

File No: T11/5776

## Decision Report

Classification decisions are made in accordance with the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 (the Act), the National Classification Code and the Classification Guidelines.

### Production Details:

Title:	THE IRON LADY
Alternate titles:	
Director/s:	PHYLLIDA LLOYD
Producer/s:	DAMIAN JONES
Year of Production:	2011
Duration:	105 MINUTES
Version:	ORIGINAL
Format:	DCI
Country/ies of origin:	UK
Language/s:	ENGLISH
Application type:	FPE2
Applicant:	ICON FILM DISTRIBUTION

### Dates:

Date application received by the Classification Board: 01 December 2011  
 Date of decision: 06 December 2011

### Decision:

Classification:	M
Consumer advice:	Mature themes and violence

## Synopsis:

A drama film about one of the 20th century's most famous and influential women, Margaret Thatcher, who came from nowhere to break down barriers of gender and class to be heard in a male dominated world and become the first and only female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

## Reasons for the Decision:

In making this decision, the Classification Board has applied the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 (the Classification Act), the National Classification Code (the Code) and the Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Computer Games 2005 (the Guidelines).

In the Board's view this film warrants an M classification as, in accordance with item 5 of the films table of the National Classification Code, it cannot be recommended for viewing by persons who are under 15.

Pursuant to the Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Computer Games, this film is classified M as the impact of the classifiable elements is moderate. Material classified M is not recommended for persons under 15 years of age. There are no legal restrictions on access.

The classifiable elements are themes and violence that are moderate in viewing impact.

The examples described below do not represent an exhaustive list of the content that caused the film to be classified M.

### THEMES and VIOLENCE

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The film contains themes and violence that are at times, inextricably linked, have a moderate sense of threat and/or menace and are justified by context. The depictions of violence occur mostly in scenes of actual archive news footage involving violent mob-clashes between police and protesters, taken from various turbulent periods throughout the Thatcher reign of government. These references to violence include post-action visuals that depict the carnage (and injury) after various IRA bombings as well as violence related to the English trade union strikes (violent protests) and explosions/bombings as a result of terrorist activities, that refer to Al Qaeda.

Examples include but are not limited to (with approximate times):

At 46 minutes, Margaret bids farewell to her spokesperson, Harry, in an underground car park, after a political address. A short time after Harry is seen driving away, a loud and violent explosion is heard. A post-action visual cuts to depict Harry's disintegrated car – on fire and blackened after the explosion. A news headline goes on to state that the IRA claimed responsibility for the car-bombing.

At 84 minutes, real archive news footage depicts angry protesters clashing violently with police. Throughout this scene a policeman is seen repeatedly striking a civilian with his baton (from distance), an angry protester rams a pole through a vehicle's window (within an angry mob scene), and various individuals are seen with bleeding injuries as they are aggressively dragged away from a picket-line.

### OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED OR NOTED

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The Board notes that the film contains language and nudity that can be accommodated within a lower classification.

## Decision:


This film is classified M with consumer advice of mature themes and violence.

*Classification Board use only*

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Names of panel members constituted for decision:

s22(1)(a)(ii)



Details of opinions (including minority views):

Unanimous

A senior panellist has confirmed that the application considered was valid under the Act.

A senior panellist has confirmed that all members constituting the Board for this decision have considered the application and that this Decision Report is a true and accurate reflection of the Board's decision and any minority opinions.

Decision signed off by a senior panellist.

Decision signed off by Director .....Date ...../...../.....

(required for all enforcement applications, commercial RC decisions and non-ISP ACMA RC decisions)



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File No: T11/5776

## Decision Report

Classification decisions are made in accordance with the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 (the Act), the National Classification Code and the Classification Guidelines.

### Production Details:

Title:	THE IRON LADY
Alternate titles:	
Director/s:	PHYLLIDA LLOYD / ALBERT SHARPE
Producer/s:	DAMIEN JONES / ALBERT SHARPE
Year of Production:	2011
Duration:	148 MINUTES
Version:	ORIGINAL
Format:	DVD FOR DVD & BLURAY
Country/ies of origin:	UK
Language/s:	ENGLISH
Application type:	FO1
Applicant:	ICON FILM DISTRIBUTION

### Dates:

Date application received by the Classification Board: 08 February 2012  
 Date of decision: 13 February 2012

### Decision:

Classification:	M
Consumer advice:	Mature themes and coarse language

## Synopsis:

A modified version of the biopic *The Iron Lady* which dramatises the adult life of Margaret Thatcher, the first and only female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. This version includes extra material in the form of short featurettes titled *Making the Iron Lady*, *Downing Street*, *House of Commons*, *Love Dennis*, *Costume Designer* and *Young Margaret*.

## Reasons for the Decision:

In making this decision, the Classification Board has applied the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 (the Classification Act), the National Classification Code (the Code) and the Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Computer Games 2005 (the Guidelines).

In the Board's view this film warrants an M classification as, in accordance with item 5 of the films table of the National Classification Code, it cannot be recommended for viewing by persons who are under 15.

Pursuant to the Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Computer Games, this film is classified M as the impact of the classifiable elements is moderate. Material classified M is not recommended for persons under 15 years of age. There are no legal restrictions on access.

The Board notes that this full-length feature has been previously classified M (with consumer advice provided for mature themes and coarse language) on the 6/12/2011.

In the Board's opinion the additional material on this DVD does not contain any classifiable elements that alter this classification or exceed a moderate impact level and the consumer advice remains appropriate, therefore this material warrants an M classification with consumer advice for mature themes and coarse language.

## Decision:

This film is classified M with consumer advice for mature themes and coarse language.

*Classification Board use only*

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Names of panel members constituted for decision:

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Details of opinions (including minority views):

UNANIMOUS

A senior panellist has confirmed that the application considered was valid under the Act.

A senior panellist has confirmed that all members constituting the Board for this decision have considered the application and that this Decision Report is a true and accurate reflection of the Board's decision and any minority opinions.

Decision signed off by a senior panellist.

Decision signed off by Director .....Date ...../...../.....

(required for all enforcement applications, commercial RC decisions and non-ISP ACMA RC decisions)