

Quarterly Report of Appeals, Complaints and Advice

The BBFC is the regulator of commercial and internet content delivered via the mobile networks of EE, O2, Three and Vodafone.

In the interest of transparency, the BBFC publishes all of its adjudications in relation to cases reported to it of purported underblocking or overblocking, along with requests for advice on whether particular content should go behind parental controls or adult filters.

We keep this list updated as and when new cases are reported to us and publish updates every three months.

In all cases, the BBFC conveys its adjudication to (i) the complainant, appellant or person or body seeking advice; (ii) Mobile UK; and (iii) the relevant mobile network operator(s).

The adjudication that a website contains no material that we would classify 18 does not necessarily mean that we believe it is suitable for younger children.

In the following cases, the adjudications represent an assessment of the content according to the dates listed below. Any subsequent changes to content have therefore not been viewed by the BBFC, although we reserve the right to change our adjudication should altered content be brought to our attention subsequently.

July 2021

1st July 2021

Website

<https://www.angelfire.com/home/hideout/HOME.html>

Issue

A mobile network operator contacted the BBFC for advice about the suitability of the website for people under 18, following a complaint from a member of the public that it had been placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 1st July 2021.

We noted that the site is a personal blog in which the author discusses her experience of depression, self-harm and suicidal feelings. The website contains detailed references to self-harm and suicide, as well as graphic images of injuries sustained from self-harm. We recommended that it remain behind filters.

6th July 2021

Website

<https://uk.hawkeoptics.com/>

Issue

A mobile network operator contacted the BBFC for advice about the suitability of the website for people under 18, following a complaint from a member of the public that it had been placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined <https://uk.hawkeoptics.com/> on 5th July 2021.

We noted that it is a retail site, for a UK company specialising in optical equipment for wildlife management, naturalists and field sports. For these legal pursuits, it sells rifle scopes, binoculars and associated accessories. The site also includes articles on responsible hunting, bird-watching and cooking. Based on our sampling of the site, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

8th July 2021

Website

<http://www.litteratureaudio.com/>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC to complain that the website had been placed behind adult filters, despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the site on 8th July 2021.

We noted that the site is a resource for the downloading of audiobooks of classic French literature. It contains a section on erotic literature which includes works by the Marquis de Sade, such as *Juliette*. Part B of the framework lists both 'very strong references to sexual behaviour' and 'strong sadistic, masochistic or sado-masochistic violence' as content likely to be considered suitable for adults only. We recommended that it remain behind filters.

9th July 2021

Website

<http://www.phantasm.com/>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC to complain that the website had been placed behind adult filters, despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 9th July 2021.

We noted that it is a fan site for Don Coscarelli's 1979 horror film PHANTASM. The site charts the history of the film, its production and its cultural impact. It offers for sale associated products, including DVDs. PHANTASM was most recently classified 15 by the BBFC. Our sampling of the site indicates that it contains no stronger content than that already in the film, and consequently there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

12 July 2021

Website

<http://paganspace.net>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 12th July 2021.

We noted that the URL leads to the membership sign-in page for a free forum inviting people of all religions and none to discuss their beliefs. The page asserts that the forum is welcoming, tolerant and educational. In our sampling of that portion of the site which was available to us at the time of viewing, we found no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

12 July 2021

Website

<http://baiscopelk.com/>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 12th July 2021.

We noted that the URL leads to a site which offers for sale subtitles, in the Sinhala language, for mainstream films and TV series. In our sampling of the site, we discovered instructions on how to illegally download and stream such content. We recommended that it remain behind filters.

12 July 2021

Website

<https://dropgalaxy.com/>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 12th July 2021.

We noted that the URL offers a paid-for file-sharing service. It includes adverts for an 'adult content platform'. Consequently, we found material that we would classify at least 18. We recommended that filters continue to be applied.

12 July 2021

Website

<https://www.vpnmentor.com/>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 12th July 2021.

We noted that the site offers reviews of VPN services. The site offers information on how to subscribe to the services and a description of the features offered by the services. It includes a blog on VPN-related matters. At the time of sampling, the website contained no overt references to illegal activity, nor did it actively include instructions on how to use its service to commit an offence, or to avoid detection when committing an offence. Based on our sampling of the site, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

12 July 2021

Website

<http://vpnprivacy.com>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 12th July 2021. We had issued a previous adjudication on the site on 12th March 2021.

We noted that the site offers a paid-for VPN service. The site offers information on how to subscribe to the service and a description of the features offered by the service. The website includes a blog, in which we found a post instructing UK users on how to unblock the website RARBG. RARBG is a torrenting website which is blocked under UK law. Consequently, we recommended that filters continue to be applied.

12 July 2021

Website

<http://www.airvpn.org>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 12th July 2021. We had issued a previous adjudication on the site on 12th March 2021.

We noted that the site offers a paid-for VPN service. The site offers information on how to subscribe to the service and a description of the features offered by the service. The website includes a forum. Based on our sampling of the site, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

12 July 2021

Website

<http://wholehearted.org>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 12th July 2021.

We noted that the site offers self-help resources - both free and for sale - with a focus on those recovering from addiction. It includes talks, documentaries and online-courses. Based on our sampling of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

12 July 2021

Website

<http://www.pinkgiraffe.co.uk/>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 12th July 2021.

The URL leads to a website which sells business advice for those wishing to make dance costumes as a career. The site includes a podcast and blog on sewing and other matters relating to the industry. It offers free tutorials to registered users. Based on our sampling of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

12 July 2021

Website

<http://ivacy.com/>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 12th July 2021.

We noted that the site offers a paid-for VPN service. It contains information on how to subscribe to the service and a description of the features offered by the service. It includes a blog, on which we found entries detailing how to access the dark web and the illegal marketplaces therein. Consequently, we recommended that filters continue to be applied.

12 July 2021

Website

<http://goosevpn.com>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 12th July 2021.

We noted that the site offers a paid-for VPN service. The site offers information on how to subscribe to the service and a description of the features offered by the service. It includes a blog with VPN-related entries. At the time of sampling, the website contained no overt references to illegal activity, nor did it actively include instructions on how to use its service to commit an offence, or to avoid detection when committing an offence. Based on our sampling of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

12 July 2021

Website

<http://le-vpn.com/>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 12th July 2021.

We noted that the site offers a paid-for VPN service. The site offers information on how to subscribe to the service and a description of the features offered by the service. It includes a blog with VPN-related entries. At the time of sampling, the website contained no overt references to illegal activity, nor did it actively include instructions on how to use its service to commit an offence, or to avoid detection when committing an offence. Based on our sampling of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

12 July 2021

Website

<http://browsec.com/>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 12th July 2021.

We noted that the site offers a paid-for VPN service. The site offers information on how to subscribe to the service and a description of the features offered by the service. At the time of sampling, the website contained no overt references to illegal activity, nor did it actively include instructions on how to use its service to commit an offence, or to avoid detection when committing an offence. Based on our sampling of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

12 July 2021

Website

<http://flyvpn.com/>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 12th July 2021.

We noted that the site offers a paid-for VPN service. The site offers information on how to subscribe to the service and a description of the features offered by the service. At the time of sampling, the website contained no overt references to illegal activity, nor did it actively include instructions on how to use its service to commit an offence, or to avoid detection when committing an offence. Based on our sampling of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify

12 July 2021

Website

<http://surfeasy.com>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 12th July 2021. We had issued a previous adjudication on the site on 12th March 2021.

We noted that the site offers a paid-for VPN service. The site offers information on how to subscribe to the service and a description of the features offered by the service. The website contained no overt references to illegal activity, nor did it actively include instructions on how to use its service to commit an offence, or to avoid detection when committing an offence. Based on our sampling of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

12 July 2021

Website

<http://frootvpn.com>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 12th July 2021.

We noted that the site offers a paid-for VPN service. The site offers information on how to subscribe to the service and a description of the features offered by the service. It includes a blog with VPN-related entries, in which we noted instructions on how to access sites that are blocked under UK law, such as 123Movies. Based on our sampling of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

12 July 2021

Website

<http://betternet.co>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 12th July 2021.

We noted that the site offers a paid-for VPN service. The site offers information on how to subscribe to the service and a description of the features offered by the service. At the time of sampling, the website contained no overt references to illegal activity, nor did it actively include instructions on how to use its service to commit an offence, or to avoid detection when committing an offence. Based on our sampling of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

12 July 2021

Website

<http://fastestvpn.com>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 12th July 2021.

We noted that the site offers a paid-for VPN service. The site offers information on how to subscribe to the service and a description of the features offered by the service. It includes a blog with VPN-related entries, in which we noted instructions on how to access sites that are blocked under UK law, such as RARBG and The Pirate Bay. Consequently, we recommended that filters continue to be applied.

19 July 2021

Website

<http://weboas.is>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 19th July 2021.

We noted that the URL leads to a site designed to provide users with a home page offering a search engine and links to shopping, social media and web tools. It also contains multiple links to pornography and torrent sites, including ones blocked under UK law. Consequently, we recommended that filters continue to be applied.

19 July 2021

Website

<http://simkl.com>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 19th July 2021.

We noted that it is a site which recommends films and TV series, and tracks what the user has watched via a downloadable app. It has a particular focus on anime. The site provides links to legal streaming services where users who subscribe to those services can watch the titles. Among the themes that users can filter their searches with are 'pornography', 'incest' and 'sexual abuse'. Additionally, we found embedded YouTube trailers which we would rate at least 18 or refuse to classify. Consequently, we recommended that adult filters continue to be applied.

19 July 2021

Website

<http://www.bitlet.org>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 19th July 2021.

The URL leads to a page on the wider personal site of a web developer, who outlines his professional career and projects that he has worked on. The page in question relates to his build of a bittorrent project which allows a client to run a browser without download. At the time of sampling, the website contained no overt references to illegal activity, nor did it actively include instructions on how to use its service to commit an offence, or to avoid detection when committing an offence. Based on our sampling of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

19 July 2021

Website

<http://fomnybox.com>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 19th July 2021.

The site purports to stream live Arabic news and Islamic religious content from channels around the Middle East. At the time of sampling, we found no live streams, with only YouTube videos available for viewing. Based on our sampling of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

20 July 2021

Website

<http://gatesofvienna.net>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 20th July 2021.

We noted that the URL leads to a news and opinion site with a focus on what it perceives as the danger of mass immigration, with a focus on Islam. Part B of the Framework outlines that the BBFC considers the following suitable for adults only: 'Language or behaviour which attacks a person or group on the basis of race, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation and is not condemned'. We found such examples, and consequently we recommended that filters continue to be applied.

20 July 2021

Website

<http://www.sexybelle.com>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 20th July 2021. We had issued a previous adjudication on the site on 12th March 2021.

We noted that this was a retail site selling an array of lingerie, sex toys and accessories, including those for fetish play. Although the site may not be considered pornographic, much of the site contains material suitable for adults and is clearly intended for a mature audience. As such, we recommended that filters continue to be applied.

20 July 2021

Website

<http://anonine.com>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 20th July 2021.

We noted that the site offers a paid-for VPN service. The site offers information on how to subscribe to the service and a description of the features offered by the service. It includes a blog with VPN-related entries. At the time of sampling, the website contained no overt references to illegal activity, nor did it actively include instructions on how to use its service to commit an offence, or to avoid detection when committing an offence. Based on our sampling of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

20 July 2021

Website

<http://animekisa.tv>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 20th July 2021.

We noted that the URL leads to a streaming site with a particular focus on anime. On it, we were able to stream content to which the BBFC has rated 18 or refused to classify. We recommended filters continue to be applied.

20 July 2021

Website

<http://footbar.com>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 20th July 2021.

It is a site which offers for sale a wearable technology device which tracks footballers' performance while on the pitch. It includes associated content such as FAQ and a blog. Based on our sampling of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

20 July 2021

Website

<http://www.osvaldogatto.com.ar>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the website was placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 20th July 2021.

The URL leads to an Argentinian site which offers for sale fully functional replicas of historical firearms such as cannon and pistols clearly intended for use within historical reenactment pursuits. The website does not encourage the use of easily accessible weapons. Based on our sampling of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

20 July 2021

Website

<http://www.Ogomovies.info/>

Issue

A mobile network operator contacted the BBFC for advice about the suitability of the website for people under 18, following a complaint from a member of the public that no filters had been applied despite material that in the complainant's opinion justified restriction to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 20th July 2021.

We noted that the URL leads to a movie streaming site on which we found R18 level pornography. All sex works are considered suitable for adults only under part B of the Framework. Consequently, we recommended that adult filters should be applied.

August 2021

10 August 2021

Website

<http://zvedavec.org/>

Issue

A mobile network operator contacted the BBFC for advice about the suitability of the website for people under 18, following a complaint from a member of the public that it had been placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 10th August 2021.

We noted that the site is a Czech political discussion site, which invites donations and comment. Its editorial voice seems to be somewhat libertarian. It is opposed to political correctness, and warns readers of content that is 'xenophobic, sexist, nationalist, racist'. We found such content. Part B of the Framework stipulates that content will be suitable for adults only where groups are attacked, in an unchallenged manner, for their 'race, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation'. Consequently, we recommended that adult filters should be applied.

19 August 2021

Website

<https://nordicbotanics.com/>

Issue

A mobile network operator contacted the BBFC for advice about the suitability of the website for people under 18, following a complaint from a member of the public that it had been placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 19th August 2021.

We noted that the website is an online retailer of CBD based products. There were several disclaimers across the site stressing that all of its products contain the legal level of THC (<0.2%THC) and, therefore, have no psychoactive properties. The website also stressed that its products should be conceived as supplements, and not medicine. Based on our sampling

of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

September 2021

21 September 2021

Website

<https://sanctioned-suicide.org/>

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC to complain that no filters had been applied despite material that in the complainant's opinion justified restriction to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 21st September 2021.

We noted that the site contained instructional suicide detail, including specific techniques, as well as other material such as blog posts, that contained material that could be interpreted as encouraging suicide ideation. Part B of the Mobile Classification Framework clearly states that any material that 'promotes self-harm or suicide by any technique' is suitable for adults only and requires restriction. Accordingly, we recommended that adult filters should be applied.

21 September 2021

Website

<http://blueberry.mywire.org:9090/>

Issue

A mobile network operator contacted the BBFC for advice about the suitability of the website for people under 18, following a complaint from the site owner that it had been placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 21st September 2021.

We noted that the URL leads into a log-in page requesting a username and password. Without those, we were unable to determine the content of the wider site. Based on our sampling of the content available to us at the time of viewing, there was no material that the BBFC would classify 18 or refuse to classify.

BBFC

30 September 2021