

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 2017

26 July 2017

Website

returnofkings.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 the site 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 26 July 2017.

We noted that it was a news/blog site with sections containing various strong sexual descriptions, including descriptions and promotion of violent sex. We also found the website contained very strong language at a number of points. On that basis we were satisfied that the website contained material we would classify 18.

August 2017

7 August 2017

Website

mightyaphrodite.co.uk

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 viewed the website on 7 August 2017.

We noted that it was a site offering "Erotic or Boudoir Photo shoot" services. The site contained various galleries featuring still and moving images of sexualised nudity and erotic posing. We were satisfied that the website contained material we would classify 18.

25 August 2017

Website

toplessserver.co.uk, celebratejustright.co.uk, butlerswithbums.com, entertainment.co.uk, cheeky-events.co.uk, dventertainments.co.uk, stagrepublic.co.uk

Issue

A mobile network operator contacted the BBFC for advice about the suitability of these websites for people under 18, following a complaint from one of the site owners that they 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 websites on 25 August 2017.

We noted that they were websites offering services to stag and hen nights, gentlemen's evenings and similar events in the form of 'strippergrams', male and female models performing as topless and nude waiters, darts players, croupiers, life models and yoga artists. A variety of other striptease performances were also advertised. The websites contained galleries featuring images of the performers wearing lingerie or revealing costumes, but apart from a single heavily-shadowed image of a bare-breasted female performer, there was no full nudity. Text included references to performances being, for example, "hot and wildly erotic", but this was in the generally playful tone exhibited by the various sites in relation to the services on offer. Although the services offered by the various websites were clearly indicated as

being available only to adults, there was no material contained within the sites that the BBFC would classify 18. The website is not suitable for young children.

31 August 2017

Website

swift-sportoptics.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 viewed the website on 31 August 2017.

We noted that it was a US-based site advertising and retailing optical equipment such as binoculars and spotting scopes, as well as pistol and rifle sights for target and hunting firearms. The site did not advertise or retail firearms. Current Home Office Guidance to the Police on firearms prohibits the possession or sale, without a licence, of firearms or their 'component parts'. According to the Guidance, sights are not considered component parts. As such, the content of the site did not breach UK law and the BBFC would not classify any material on the site 18.

31 August 2017

Website

privateinternetaccess.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 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 viewed the site on 31st August 2017.

We noted that it was a website offering a paid-for VPN service. The site offered information on how to subscribe to the service, a description of the features offered by the service, client support services and a contacts page. While the BBFC is aware that VPNs can be used to enable illegal activity and to avoid detection when a criminal offence is being committed, they are not themselves illegal under UK law. In addition, the website contained no overt references to illegal activity - for example, it does not include instructions on how to use a VPN to commit an offence or promote

the use of the service in order to avoid detection when committing an offence. As such, we found no content which we would classify 18.

September 2017

19 September 2017

Website

dmovies.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 viewed the website on 19 September 2017.

We noted that it was a site dedicated to coverage of innovative and challenging cinema from around the world, and contained articles and film reviews from various contributors that take a serious, informed, but sometimes irreverent, approach to their subject. There were also trailers for various film titles embedded in the site. A sampling of the site's content revealed uses of strong language, as well as examples of visual and verbal sex references, nudity and violence, although these would not necessarily be classified at the adult category. However, there was also content (for example, in trailers) that the BBFC would not pass below 18. On the basis of that sampling we were satisfied that the website contained material we would classify 18.

BBFC

30 September 2017