

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.

January 2022

4th January 2022

Website

<https://mancraftuk.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 website on 4th January 2022.

We noted that the URL leads to a UK-based retail site which sells airsoft projectile devices, and other goods relating to the activity, such as camouflage clothing. The products are marketed for sports and recreation purposes which are legal in the UK. The website makes references to the Violent Crimes Reduction Act 2006 and outlines how the products retailed on the site fall within scope of the legislation. The site also makes several references to the age restricted nature of its products, and reinforces the fact that buyers must be registered to the UKARA (United Kingdom Airsoft Retailers Association) in order to purchase an airsoft rifle. The website also offers safety notices regarding the handling of its products and provides guidance on whether or not its products are suitable for children. We found nothing that we would classify 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

31st January 2022

Website

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

Issue

A mobile network operator contacted the BBFC for advice about the suitability of the website for people under 18.

Adjudication

The BBFC examined the website on 31st January 2022.

We noted that the website is a forum which announces the deaths, from COVID-19, of those who have been sceptical of the gravity of the pandemic, or of the proportionality of the medical response to it. The editorial copy adopts a somewhat celebratory tone, and the comments beneath each announcement more so. The treatment of the issue, in this context, amounts to discriminatory behaviour which the Framework indicates should be considered 18+ if 'frequent, aggressive and... not condemned'. In addition, we found comments which attacked the deceased on the basis of their religion, as well as multiple uses of very strong and discriminatory language. Consequently, we recommended that it remain behind filters.

February 2022

7th February 2022

Website

<https://www.cbii-cbd.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 7th February 2022.

We noted that the website retailed a range of CBD based products. The website reinforced in text that none of its products contained any psychoactive substances and that all of its products contained less than 0.2% THC. There was also no evidence to suggest that the website was marketing its products as anything other than food supplements. We found nothing that we would classify 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

March 2022

7th March 2022

Website

<https://www.buckhrosolutions.co.uk/nationw>

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 7th March 2022.

We noted that the URL leads to a log-in page for a pension fund. Without log-in details we were unable to determine the content of the wider site. However, based on that portion of the site available to us we found nothing that we would rate 18+ in line with the Framework.

16th March 2022

Website

yourmum.co.uk

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 viewed the website on 16th March 2022.

We noted that the site belonged to a satirical journalist and contained multiple clippings of their work. Across the website we noted infrequent uses of very strong language ('c**t') and strong language ('f**k'), as well as infrequent uses of discriminatory terms ('midget'). There were also moderate sex references and examples of crude humour. We found nothing that we would classify 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

17th March 2022

Website

www.preppersshop.co.uk

Issue

The website owner contacted the BBFC in regard to our previous adjudication on 21st November 2021. Following that adjudication, they made changes to the site which led them to believe it was now being over-blocked.

Adjudication

The BBFC reassessed the site on 17th March 2022.

We noted that the site is intended for 'preppers' to buy and collate a range of survival gear for potential future emergencies. The gear is also used by hikers, campers, hunters and others engaging in outdoor/survival pursuits. The site offers survival packs that include axes, as well as a wide array of bows and crossbows, although these are not marketed as weapons for use against others. The site does also contain a section on Age Verification, stating that certain products require age verification to purchase. We found nothing that we would classify 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

22nd March 2022

Website

<http://monta.com>

Issue

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 22nd March 2022.

We noted that the URL leads to the homepage of a UK business, a tech company specialising in services related to the charging of electric vehicles. The site outlines the firm's services and prices, and includes a blog on topics related to the industry. We found nothing that we would classify 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

28th March 2022

Website

<http://britishcondoms.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 28th March 2022.

We noted that the URL leads to a retail site specialising very largely in condoms, but also with a limited selection of associated products (such as lubrication). The site also includes a blog which contains articles related to sex and relationships; typically sex education and sexual health. During our sampling of the site, we found no sex references that we would consider to be very strong or pornographic. We found nothing that we would classify 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

BBFC

31st March 2022