

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 2023

12 January 2023

Website

www.oxocan.com and www.oxocan.co.uk

Issue

A representative of the website contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the site 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

We noted that the websites retailed a range of CBD based products. The websites made clear that the products are not to be sold for medicinal purposes and furthermore that they contained less than 0.2% THC. Accordingly, we found nothing that we would classify 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

February 2023

2 February 2023

Website

www.cbii-cbd.com

Issue

A representative of the website contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the site 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

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. As such, we found nothing that we would classify 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

21 February 2023

Website

<http://nakedambitions.co.uk>

Issue

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

Adjudication

We noted that the URL led to a Scottish service provider which offered male 'butlers' for hire, largely to hen parties. The site described the services the butlers provide at a party, which are limited to serving drinks, playing games and modelling for life drawing. There are photographs of the butlers, in which rear nudity is a prominent feature. The site invited customers to seek a price quote, and had a FAQ page which was non-functional at the time of viewing. We found nothing that we would classify 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

27 February 2023

Website

www.boltongunclub.co.uk

Issue

A representative of the website contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the site 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

We noted the URL led to the homepage of a club for participants in recreational non-game shooting sports such as clay pigeon shooting, target shooting and archery. The site informs potential members of the facilities it offers, and lets them know how to get involved, with contact details and FAQs. The site did not trade in firearms, and makes clear to interested parties the necessity of a licence for gun ownership. It placed an emphasis on safety and correct procedure. We found nothing that we would classify 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

March 2023

7 March 2023

Website

electrictobacconist.co.uk

Issue

A representative of the website contacted the BBFC directly to complain that the site 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

We noted that the URL led to a retail site specialising in vaping paraphernalia, and other nicotine-based products such as snus. It offered descriptions of such products and reviews from customers. We did not note any content obviously calculated to appeal to children. The site claims to implement age verification to ensure that customers are over the age of 18, but we were unable to confirm this: it is the retailer's responsibility to utilise effective age verification systems when it comes to supplying customers with age restricted goods or services, and the relevant local Trading Standards service is responsible for the enforcement of this consumer related legislation. On the date above, we found no material which we would consider 18 or refuse to classify.

29 March 2023

Website

www.hairygut.com

Issue

The BBFC originally adjudicated on the website in April 2022. Further to the BBFC's original adjudication, the website owner contacted the BBFC to complain that the revised site 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 provided a further adjudication on a revised version of the website.

As previously, the URL led to a site which featured artwork dedicated to the male form, including with sexual posing. It featured a news section and invited donations. Following links provided by the site we found erotica and pornography, with no intervening age verification. Part B of the Framework lists, as suitable for adults only, 'fetish material', 'genital nudity within a sexualised context' and 'very strong references to sexual behaviour using strong pornographic terms'. We found such material and consequently we did not consider the site to be suitable for people under the age of 18.

BBFC
31 March 2023