

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.

April 2022

11th April 2022

Website

www.newengland.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

The BBFC viewed the site www.newengland.co.uk on 11th April 2022.

The URL led to the homepage of a UK firm which specialises in the trading of industrial machinery. The site describes the areas in which the business works, invites

vendor submissions and advertises upcoming auctions. It also contains a newsletter with associated articles. We found nothing that we would classify 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

19th April 2022

Website

www.hairygut.com

Issue

The domain owner 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 www.hairygut.com on 19th April 2022.

The URL leads to a gay interest site with artwork dedicated to the male form. It offers for commission the artist's work and features a bulletin on other similar work in the field, as well as a selection of fiction. As part of the fiction section of the site, we discovered an age warning - which invited viewers to click, without verification, if they were over 18 - behind which we found erotica. Part B of the Framework lists, as suitable for adults only, 'very strong references to sexual behaviour using strong pornographic terms'. Consequently, we recommended that it remain behind filters.

21st April 2022

Website

erome.com

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 erome.com on 21st April 2022.

The URL led to the log-in page of a pornographic tube site. An explore function allowed visitors to sample the content of the site without log-in or age verification. Consequently, we recommended that adult filters should be applied.

29th April 2022

Website

www.goload.pro

Issue

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

Adjudication

The BBFC examined www.goload.pro on 29th April 2022.

The URL led to a streaming site with a particular focus on anime. On it, we were able to stream content which the BBFC has rated 18 or refused to classify. Consequently, we recommended that adult filters should be applied.

May 2022

3rd May 2022

Website

www.hairvirginity.com

Issue

The website owner 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

The BBFC examined www.hairvirginity.com on May 3rd 2022.

The URL led to a retail website, in the fashion and beauty sector, specialising in human hair products, including wigs, extensions and associated accessories. The site includes a blog on related beauty issues. On the date above, we found no material which we would consider 18 or refuse to classify.

Website

<https://hackers.town>

Issue

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

Adjudication

The BBFC examined <https://hackers.town> on May 3rd 2022.

The URL led to the homepage of a small social network for computing enthusiasts. The site requires a log-in for full access, but also includes a section where prospective members can explore the boards. It has a set of rules which it asks users to abide by, and promises moderation, including bans, for those that do not. No age limit is placed on users. Content that is considered NSFW is placed behind a content warning which, however, only requires the user to click to see the content. We found pornographic images behind such warnings, and consequently, we recommended that adult filters should be applied.

9th May 2022

Website

<https://www.conservativewoman.co.uk/>

Issue

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

Adjudication

The BBFC examined <https://www.conservativewoman.co.uk/> on May 4th & 6th 2022.

We noted that the site is a news forum containing articles on a range of issues including current affairs and politics.

While the views expressed across the website may be subject to debate, and some people may disagree strongly with the positions of the articles and blogs, they were expressed within the spirit of providing a legitimate side to an argument. However, we did find material across the comments section of the website that reflected

discriminatory attitudes towards particular groups, including Muslims, Black people, and women. For example, we found statements such as 'Islamists are pure evil. We should never have let any turd worlders in...One day we will fight back..and it won't be pretty. The Saxon learns to hate slowly'; white supremacist culture "is demonstrably superior to all others" while Islam is a "murderous movement"; "Women in Parliament....are just self-serving sluts"; and, in reference to Black people "It's almost as if we accept that they are uncontrollable savages".

We also found statements in the comments section denying the Holocaust. For example one statement described the Holocaust as "all lies fabricated by those who actually committed the most horrendous atrocities in history: the Jewish communists".

Such comments were left unchallenged on the website and, therefore, are in breach of Part B of the MNO Classification Framework which states that any 'Language or behaviour which attacks a person or group on the basis of race, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation and is not condemned' is likely to be considered suitable for adults only.

Accordingly, we concluded that the website did contain material that we would rate at least 18 and recommended that filters should be applied.

Website

www.rt.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 www.rt.com on May 9th 2022.

The URL led to the Russian news website, which contains articles, features and opinion pieces on current affairs. The site invites comment from its users and, in these comment sections, we found examples of discrimination including this comment below an article on transgender issues: "The only inclusivity with 'they/them' I want is my fist their face".

Part B of the MNO Classification Framework considers suitable for adults only any material which attacks a person or group on the basis of race, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation and is not condemned. We found such material, which we would rate 18+, and we recommended that adult filters should be applied.

Website

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

Issue

The website owner 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

The BBFC examined <http://www.hmsofas.co.uk/> on May 9th 2022.

A retail site specialising in soft furniture, the site includes images of their products, product specifications and information on delivery. At the time of sampling, we found nothing that we would classify 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

10th May 2022

Website

<http://www.endthecageage.eu/>

Issue

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

Adjudication

The BBFC examined <http://www.endthecageage.eu/> on May 10th 2022.

The site belongs to a UK-based animal welfare charity. Its stated aim is to campaign against the use of cages in European livestock farming. To this end, it seeks donations, signatories and volunteers. The site describes the organisation's work, lists its NGO partners and ranks European nations based on their use of cages in farming. At the time of sampling, we found nothing that we would classify 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

23rd May 2022

Website

<https://righttolife.org.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

The BBFC examined <https://righttolife.org.uk/> on May 23rd 2022.

The URL led to the homepage of a pro-life organisation which campaigns on issues of abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide. The site describes the organisation's aims and the work that they undertake. It offers advice on how to get involved, and includes articles on relevant stories in the media. While the views expressed across the website may be subject to debate, and some people may disagree with the positions of the information it provides, they were expressed within the spirit of providing a legitimate side to an argument and, at the time of sampling, we found nothing that we would rate 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

26th May 2022

Website

<https://www.noonans.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

The BBFC examined <https://www.noonans.co.uk/> on May 26th 2022.

A London-based auctioneer specialising in medals and coins, but also encompassing wider militaria and jewellery, the site offers visitors information on coming auctions, lot catalogues, and instructions on how to buy and sell. Like all major auction houses handling militaria, the company trades in legal weapons, as well as objects of legitimate historical interest, including those deriving from Nazi Germany and the

USSR. We found no material that we would rate 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

June 2022

27th June 2022

Website

<http://www.clover.co>

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 <http://www.clover.co> on June 27th 2022.

The URL led to a dating site which connects strangers online. On it, we were able to find graphic sexual images and, consequently, we recommended that adult filters should be applied.

BBFC

30th June 2022