

Quarterly Report of Appeals, Complaints and Advice – EE Strict

The BBFC is the regulator of commercial and internet content delivered via the mobile network of EE for its 'Strict' level of mobile content.

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; and (ii) the mobile network operator EE.

In the following cases, the adjudications represent an assessment of the content according to the terms of the BBFC's EE Strict Classification Framework. 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.

All websites that the BBFC would classify 18 or R18, or refuse to classify, would be automatically considered unsuitable for the EE Strict Classification Framework. Further information on the original Quarterly Report adjudications are available on the BBFC's website [here](#).

October 2022

4th October 2022

Website

<https://www.safetest4.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 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 URL led to a retail site which sold kits for testing the content of illegal drugs such as cocaine, heroin and LSD. The kit tells the user whether certain chemicals are present in the drug. The test kits allow users to determine the relative safety of

potentially life-threatening drugs. The site is not instructional on the misuse of drugs, and nor does it promote, glamourise or encourage that misuse. We did not consider the site suitable for EE Strict customers.

November 2022

22nd November 2022

Website

www.rt.com

Issue

The BBFC originally adjudicated on the website in May 2022. Following this adjudication, a mobile network operator contacted the BBFC for further advice about the suitability of the website for people under 18.

Adjudication

The BBFC provided a further adjudication on a revised version of the website.

As previously, we noted that the URL led to a Russian news site with articles, features and opinion pieces on current affairs, some of which contained opinions that certain readers would find offensive. The comment section on numerous articles still contained extensive examples of discriminatory language and attitudes, including homophobia, racism, sexism and transphobia. We did not consider the site suitable for EE Strict customers.

December 2022

12 December 2022

Website

<http://vtmarkets.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 URL led to a site which acted as a stockbroker making trades on multiple financial assets across different global markets. The site claimed to be regulated by authorities in Australia and South Africa. It included a description of its services, customer FAQs and an emphasis on the rewards associated with referral of new clients. We found nothing that we would consider unsuitable for EE Strict customers.

Website

<http://accesscbd.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 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. The site was at pains to explain the laws relating to CBD products to its customers, and there was broad discussion of the lack of proven efficacy of CBD products as medical treatments. Rather, the FAQs clearly assert that its products are marketed as food supplements. We found nothing that we would consider unsuitable for EE Strict customers.

Website

<http://elixinol.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 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 were depictions of marijuana plants, but nothing related to illegal misuse. Disclaimers asserted that the products should not be used to 'treat, cure or prevent' disease. We found nothing that we would consider unsuitable for EE Strict customers.

Website

<http://canabidol.com>

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 website retailed a range of CBD based products. The product was marketed as a 'supplement' and it is repeatedly said not to have an illegal THC strength. There were references to the lack of medical evidence supporting the use of CBD in place of medicine, and customers were warned that the products should not be used in conjunction with medicine without consulting a doctor. A disclaimer stated that the products should not be used to 'treat, cure or prevent' disease.

Consequently, we found no material that we would classify 18 or refuse to classify. We found nothing that we would consider unsuitable for EE Strict customers.

BBFC

31st December 2022