

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 2023

11 April 2023

Website

www.drink-trip.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 soft drinks. The site included a blog, customer testimonials and product details. On the date of sampling, the products were listed as containing 0% THC, and a disclaimer under terms of service stated that the site made no health claims for its products. We found no heavy reliance on marijuana imagery, nor any content related to illegal misuse. As such, we found nothing that we would classify 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

19 April 2023

Website

<http://www.acri.org.il/en>

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 the English version of the homepage of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, which described itself as that country's 'oldest and most influential human rights organization'. Its stated focus is on the Arab minority living in the West Bank and other parts of the country. The site described how the organisation engaged in legal work, fundraising, lobbying and education activities. Given the depth of feeling of those who hold different positions on the Israel-Palestine conflict to the ACRI, the organisation has inevitably been criticised, but it remains an established Israeli NGO. At the time of sampling we found references to, and images of, violence and suffering on the site, but nothing approaching the benchmark that we would consider suitable for adults only under the framework. As such, we found nothing that we would classify 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

27 April 2023

Website

<https://nra.org.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 the website of the National Rifle Association, a registered UK charity which promotes non-game shooting sports and 'encourages marksmanship through competition and training'. On the site, there were competition results, descriptions of various shooting disciplines, information for prospective members and links to local accredited shooting centres. The site has an emphasis on safety and legality. At the time of sampling, we found no material that we would consider 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

Website

www.hairygut.com

Issue

The BBFC previously adjudicated on the website in April 2022 and March 2023. 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

As previously, we noted that the URL led to a site devoted to images of the male form. It contained a gallery section, a news section and contact details. The site no longer contained erotica or provided hyperlinks to other sites which we would rate 18+. The BBFC Mobile Classification Framework states that works whose primary purpose is sexual arousal should be considered 18+: we do not believe that the site met this test. Rather, we consider such images as were available on the date of sampling to be 'glamour' material, ie, material which may be sexual, but the primary purpose of which is not to arouse or stimulate. Consequently, we found no material that we would rate 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

May 2023

10 May 2023

Website

<http://www.palestinecampaign.org>

Issue

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

Adjudication

We noted the URL led to the site of an activist group dedicated to Palestinian human rights. The organisation seeks to bring political pressure, from the international community, to bear on Israel in that regard. The site organises marches and events, and lists patrons such as leading barristers, politicians and film directors. The site outlines what it perceives to be Israel's crimes, as well as emphasising the sufferings of the Arab population. It does so without using graphic imagery, and nor does it host comments from visitors to the site. At the time of sampling we found no material that we would rate 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

12 May 2023

Website

<https://smilemakerscollection.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 URL led to a site which retailed sex toys and other related products. It includes a section on related press coverage, and a quiz. There is also a blog in

which we found an entry advising visitors on how to access 'rough' porn. Accordingly, the BBFC found material on the website that we would classify at least 18.

Website

<https://dame.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 URL led to a site which retailed sex toys and other related products, such as lubrication, massage oil and candles. The site offers descriptions of its products, hosts customer reviews and links to press articles. It also hosts a blog on which we found articles on BDSM, as well as content relating to "sex and cannabis" clubs. The site is geared toward an adult audience and contains content that would be inappropriate for children. Accordingly, the BBFC found material on the website that we would classify at least 18.

Website

<https://getmaude.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 URL led to a site specialising in 'sexual wellness'. It offered for sale sex toys, condoms and lubricants. The site has a shop section, a section on the brand and a section of articles. In the articles, we found references to 'rough sex', troilism and sex in public. The site is geared toward an adult audience and contains content that would be inappropriate for children. Accordingly, the BBFC found material on the website that we would classify at least 18.

Website

<https://www.thenaturallovecompany.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 URL led to a site specialising in the retail of adult products including sex toys, 'cock rings' and 'love eggs'. It also has a section selling BDSM products such as whips, restraints and gags. The Framework considers fetish material as suitable for adults only. Accordingly, the BBFC found material on the website that we would classify at least 18.

22 May 2023

Website

<http://proxyium.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 URL led to a site which offers a web proxy service, allowing users to disguise their IP address and circumvent geoblocking. The site offers its services for free and without the user having to install software. It also offers a VPN service and a proxyscrape service. The site includes a blog on which we were able to find various instructional details, including on how to access the dark web. That part of the site related to VPNs does not fall under the scope of the Framework, but the rest is vulnerable under Part A which states that the BBFC will take into account 'the portrayal of accurate instructional detail of novel criminal techniques which could be copied'. Accordingly, the BBFC found material on the website that we would classify at least 18.

31 May 2023

Website

<https://verticalvertical.com>

Issue

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

Adjudication

We noted a web page which promoted the services of a website development company. It offered a description of the services provided and listed relevant contact details. At the time of sampling, it contained no issues that we would consider suitable for adults only. At the time of sampling we found no material that we would rate 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

June 2023

5 June 2023

Website

<https://www.guntrader.uk/>

Issue

The BBFC previously adjudicated on the website in January 2018. Further to the BBFC's original adjudication, a mobile network operator contacted the BBFC for advice about the suitability of the website for people under 18.

Adjudication

As previously, we noted that the site offered the selling and trade, by private individuals and dealers, of various guns, ranging from airsoft guns up to shotguns and rifles. The site offered links to both types of vendors. The site stated that its aim was 'To provide appropriately licensed members of the public with the easiest way to buy or sell a gun' and 'To provide the trade with a simple and new way to increase their sales'. The BBFC Classification Framework does not cover sites which supply age restricted goods or services unless any adult filters in place block on the basis of the types of content listed in Part B of this schedule. At the time of sampling we found no material that we would rate 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

Website

<https://www.rimfiremagic.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 leads to the retail site of a family business, based in Yorkshire, specialising in .22 rifles for pest control. The site includes a history of the company and a description of its legal firearms and accessories. The BBFC Classification Framework does not cover sites which supply age restricted goods or services unless any adult filters in place block on the basis of the types of content listed in Part B of this schedule. At the time of sampling we found no material that we would rate 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

6 June 2023

Website

<https://ukvarminting.com>

Issue

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

Adjudication

The site leads to a discussion forum for those interested in pest control, target shooting and small bore rifles. Users post under a range of different subjects from recipes to wildlife. There is a classified section where goods can be bought or sold. The discussion seems to be effectively moderated and, at the time of sampling, we found no material that we would rate 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

Website

<https://archive.org/>

Issue

The BBFC previously adjudicated on the website in September 2015 and October 2018. Further to these adjudications, 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

We noted that the URL leads to a non-profit digital archive of web pages and content such as audio, video and stills. It receives funding from major charitable foundations and is a member of a number of professional bodies. It seeks to preserve as much of the public web as possible. Without logging in or providing age verification, we were able to access R18-level pornographic content. The BBFC Mobile Classification Framework indicates that such content should be considered appropriate only for adults. Accordingly, the BBFC found material on the website that we would classify at least 18.

14 June 2023

Website

<https://curaleafpharmacy.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 the homepage of an online UK pharmacist specialising in medical cannabis, the use of which - when prescribed by a specialist doctor - has been legal in the UK since 2018. The site provides information for patients and healthcare professionals on what conditions the drug can be used to treat, how it can be prescribed, and who it can be prescribed to. No outlandish claims are made about the efficacy of the drug and there is repeated emphasis on the fact that the products are only available via prescription from a sanctioned medical professional. At the time of sampling, we found no material that we would rate 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

15 June 2023

Website

<https://www.whateverthefuckettyfuckfuck.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 Welsh community forum for people who have been banned from social media. The community encourages users to speak their minds freely about a range of topics. In its own words, it 'actively encourages' the use of very strong language. The moderator makes clear that illegal content will not be tolerated. As of yet there have been only four posts. Nevertheless, very strong language is a repeated feature and, accordingly, the BBFC found material on the website that we would classify at least 18.

19 June 2023

Website

www.hempwell.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 the homepage of a UK retailer of CBD 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. We found no heavy reliance on marijuana imagery, nor any content related to illegal misuse. Disclaimers assert that the products should not be considered medicine, but rather are classed as 'food supplements'. As such, we found no material that we would classify 18 or refuse to classify. At the time of sampling, we found no material that we would rate 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

23 June 2023

Website

<http://zenbears.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 the homepage of a UK retailer of CBD sweets. 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. We found no heavy reliance on marijuana imagery, nor any content related to illegal misuse. Disclaimers assert that the products should be classed as 'food supplements', and

cannot treat, cure or prevent disease. At the time of sampling, we found no material that we would rate 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

Website

www.kaviso.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 URL led to a retailer of outdoor equipment, among which knives feature prominently. The majority of the knives the site offers for sale are for legitimate outdoor purposes such as hunting and survival. However we also found knives which were being sold as weapons, including those designed to be concealed and used in "non-permissive environments". Part B of the Framework lists 'the promotion of real life violence (for example... use of easily accessible weapons)' as content that the BBFC considers suitable for adults only. Accordingly, the BBFC found material on the website that we would classify at least 18.

29 June 2023

Website

<https://smilemakerscollection.com/>

Issue

The BBFC previously adjudicated on the website in May 2023. Further to this, a representative of the website contacted the BBFC directly to complain that, following changes made to the site, it was now placed behind adult filters despite containing no material that in the complainant's opinion would cause access to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

As previously, we noted that the URL led to a site which retailed sex toys and related products. It included a section on related press coverage, and a quiz. There is also a blog containing entries on various matters related to sex education. Following changes made to the site, we found no material that we would consider inappropriate for people under the age of 18. Consequently, at the time of sampling we found no material that we would rate 18+ for reasons outlined in part B of the framework.

BBFC

30 June 2023