

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.

August 2017

25 August 2017

Website

toplessserver.co.uk, celebratejustright.co.uk, butlerswithbums.com, entertainment.co.uk, cheeky-events.co.uk, dventertainments.co.uk, stagrepublic.co.uk

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the websites on 25 August 2017.

We noted that they were websites offering services to stag and hen nights, gentlemen's evenings and similar events in the form of 'strippergrams', male and female models performing as topless and nude waiters, darts players, croupiers, life models and yoga artists. A variety of other striptease performances were also advertised. The websites contained galleries featuring images of the performers wearing lingerie or revealing costumes, and text referred to performances being "hot and wildly erotic". The suggestive content on the site was such that we did not consider the site suitable for children under the age of 12.

31 August 2017

Website

swift-sportoptics.com

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 31 August 2017.

We noted that it was a US-based site advertising and retailing optical equipment such as binoculars and spotting scopes, as well as pistol and rifle sights for target and hunting firearms. The site did not advertise or retail firearms. Current Home Office Guidance to the Police on firearms prohibits the possession or sale, without a licence, of firearms or their 'component parts'. According to the Guidance, sights are not considered component parts. As such, we found no content, such as glamorised images of the equipment being advertised and retailed, that we would consider unsuitable for children under 12.

31 August 2017

Website

privateinternetaccess.com

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the site on 31st August 2017.

We noted that it was a website offering a paid-for VPN service. The site offered information on how to subscribe to the service, a description of the features offered by the service, client support services and a contacts page. While the BBFC is aware that VPNs can be used to enable illegal activity and to avoid detection when a criminal offence is being committed, they are not themselves illegal under UK law. In addition, the website contained no overt references to illegal activity - for example, it does not include instructions on how to use a VPN to commit an offence or promote the use of the service in order to avoid detection when committing an offence. As such, we found no content that we would consider unsuitable for children under 12.

BBFC

30 September 2017