

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.

November 2017

3 November 2017

Website

lgbt-training.org.uk

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC to complain that the site was blocked by adult filters despite, in the complainant's view, containing no material that would restrict it to access by adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 3 November 2017.

We noted that it was a site for a service providing training and consultancy for companies and organisations to improve accessibility to LGBT customers, employees and communities. The site contained articles and links to research reports on identity and diversity in LGBT communities, sexual health and other related issues, as well as educational and training toolkit resources. We found no material on the site which we would classify 18.

3 November 2017

Website

infantile spasms.com

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC to complain that the site was blocked by adult filters despite, in the complainant's view, containing no material that would restrict it to access by adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 3 November 2017.

We noted that it was a site providing information and support, through articles, medical research reports and forums, to the parents of children with the epilepsy-related condition of infantile spasms. We found no material on the site which we would classify 18.

3 November 2017

Website

salabecool.com

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC to complain that the site was blocked by adult filters despite, in the complainant's view, containing no material that would restrict it to access by adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 3 November 2017.

We noted that it was a site publicising the facilities and events at the music club Sala Be Cool in Barcelona, Spain. The site contains information about the venue, including its facilities for private party and corporate events, a calendar of events, picture galleries of various club nights and links to articles about the club. We found no material on the site which we would classify at 18.

3 November 2017

Website

ourcivilisation.com

Issue

A member of the public contacted the BBFC to complain that the site was blocked by adult filters despite, in the complainant's view, containing no material that would restrict it to access by adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 3 November 2017.

We noted that it was a site containing articles, comments and discussions on various aspects of culture and society, including references to race and sex, but expressed in moderate language in the context of free expression on social issues. We found no material on the site which we would classify at 18.

6 November 2017

Website

altservices.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 the site owner 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 BBFC viewed the site on 6 November 2017.

We noted that it was a host site related to the sport of archery which included links to other sites, some of which advertise and retail legitimate archery supplies, including longbows (but not crossbows), arrows, sights and clothing. Longbows are not age restricted in the UK (where junior archery is a legitimate and recognised sport) and do not require a licence. As such, the BBFC would not classify any material on the site 18.

6 November 2017

Website

callofduty.com

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 BBFC viewed the website on 6 November 2017.

We noted that it was a site related to the CALL OF DUTY series of videogames with content including news, trailers, examples of gameplay and forums. The trailers and gameplay feature strong violence and bloodshed, whilst the forums contain uses of strong and very strong language. However, after sampling the content, we could find

no material that we would necessarily classify at 18 under the BBFC classification framework.

6 November 2017

Website

tombraider.com

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 BBFC viewed the website on 6 November 2017.

We noted that it was a site related to the RISE OF THE TOMB RAIDER: 20 YEAR CELEBRATION videogame with content including news, trailers and examples of gameplay. The trailers and gameplay feature strong violence and gore. However, after sampling the content, we could find no material that we would necessarily classify at 18 under the BBFC classification framework.

BBFC
31 December 2017