

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 undertakes to publish 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 will keep this list updated as and when new cases are reported to us and will 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) the Mobile Broadband Group; and (iii) the relevant mobile network operator(s).

March 2014

25 March 2014

Websites

thecrabbiesgrandnational.co.uk, aintree.co.uk, grand-national2014.co.uk, grand-national-guide.co.uk, grandnational.racingpost.com, grand-national.net, grand-national.me.uk, aintree-grand-national.net

Issue

A mobile network operator contacted the BBFC to enquire about the above websites. The issue related to whether such websites – which do not directly enable gambling, but act as information portals with links to regulated third party gambling sites – should be placed behind adult filters.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the websites on 25 March 2014.

We found that the websites provided information relating to racing events and venues. While gambling on linked regulated sites is possible, the websites listed above do not directly facilitate it. Therefore we found no content on the sites which we would classify at 18.

April 2014

23 April 2014

Website

bodyjewellery.co.uk

Issue

A mobile network operator contacted the BBFC for advice in terms of the suitability of the website for people under 18, given that it contained images of piercings.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 23 April 2014.

We noted that the website offered information and retail products related to body piercing. These include a range of jewellery, from fake piercings to skin divers. We found no content that would necessitate the restriction of the website to people aged 18 years and over.

29 April 2014

Website

britainfirst.org

Issue

The mobile network operators contacted the BBFC for advice following a complaint they had received from the website owner that the site was placed behind the network operators' adult filters despite containing no content which, in the opinion of the complainant, would require it to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the content of the website on 29 and 30 April 2014.

We concluded that the website falls within scope of the Classification Framework.

We noted that the website contained views which could be regarded as racist. Material on the website espouses taking the law into Britain First's own hands, plainly stating that the police are not doing a good job dealing with what the group judges to be a Muslim threat to the British way of life. Among the publications on the site, there are references to the "Islamic invader" and a "horrendous epidemic of sexual abuse ... ruining countless children's lives" perpetrated by "the Muslim paedophile". While some of this content is based on recent criminal cases, the publications suggest that such behaviour is endemic in the Muslim community.

Having looked at the website we concluded that it would confound public expectations and be unacceptable to broad public opinion if we were to classify the site lower than 18. We would therefore classify the site at 18.

May 2014

22 May 2014

Website

studio66tv.com

Issue

A mobile network operator contacted the BBFC to enquire as to the suitability of the website's content for people under the age of 18.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 22 May 2014.

The website features videos and still images of scantily clad and naked women, along with chat lines to many of the women. The site states that the content goes 'further than UK television will allow'. We concluded that we would classify images of breast nudity and sexualised posing, and videos of sexualised activity 18.

30 May 2014

Website

adoniscabaret.co.uk

Issue

A mobile network operator contacted the BBFC following a complaint it had received from the website owner that the site was placed behind the network operator's adult filters despite containing no content which, in the opinion of the complainant, would require it to be restricted to adults only.

Adjudication

The BBFC viewed the website on 28 and 30 May 2014.

We noted that the website promoted a male strip show. We found that several videos on the website featured an accumulation of sexualised imagery. The cumulative effect of this sexual content and the fact that the website was primarily concerned with selling tickets for an adults-only event led to our concluding that we would classify the site at 18 or R18.

BBFC

12 June 2014