



Age verification of online pornography: What you need to know

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What do we know?

"I wasn't sure it was normal to watch it"
(NSPCC and OCC, 2016)

**Half of 11-16 year olds
have seen online
pornography.**

**94% of these had seen it
by 14**

**Young people are more
likely to see online
pornography
accidentally, than they
are to intentionally
search for it.**

Is it really that bad?

What young people told us...

"I didn't like it because it came on by accident. The man looked like he was hurting her, he was holding her down and she was screaming and swearing. I know about sex but it didn't look nice." (Female, 11-12).

"One of my friends has started treating women like he sees on the videos - not major - just a slap here or there" (Male, 13).

"Its give a unrealistic view of sex and our bodies makes us self conscious and question why our bodies are not developed like what we see online" (Female, 13)

"It was helpful in some ways. I wanted to know what sex is. At least now I know." (Female, 12)

"I only try things that suit me and my girlfriend. We don't force anything. If didn't watch some porn I wouldn't know what to do.." (Male, 15)

Digital Economy Act 2017

Part 3 - Online Pornography

S14 Internet pornography: requirement to prevent access by persons under 18

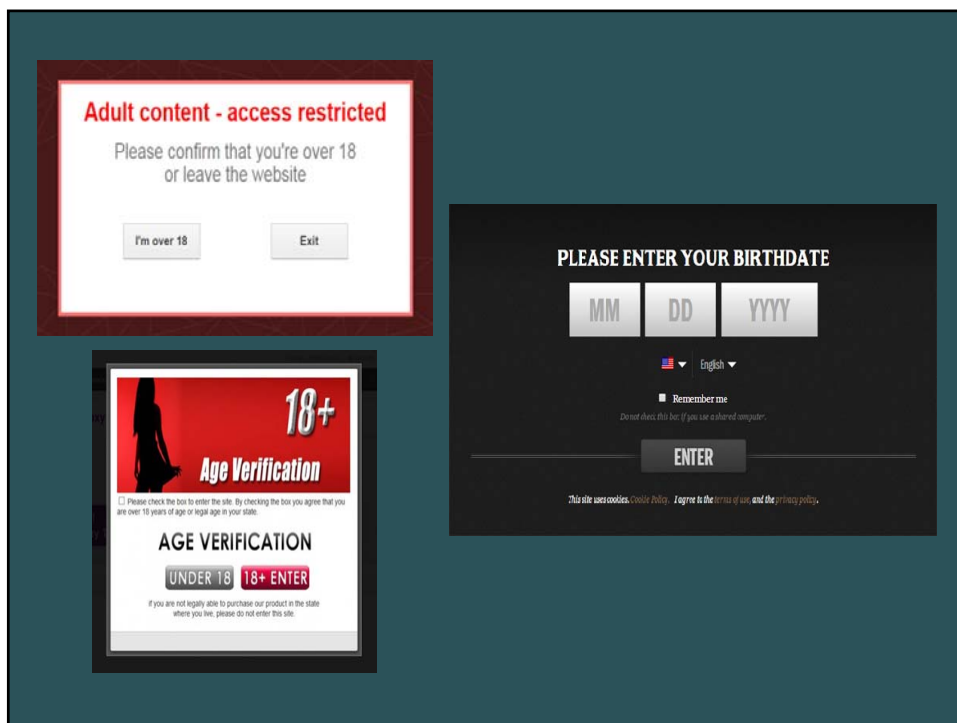
(1) A person contravenes this subsection if the person makes pornographic material available on the internet to persons in the United Kingdom on a commercial basis other than in a way that secures that, at any given time, the material is not normally accessible by persons under the age of 18.

Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008

- A possession offence under s63
- If it portrays, in an explicit and realistic way:
 - an act which threatens a person's life,
 - which results, or is likely to result, in serious injury to a person's anus, breasts or genitals,
 - an act which involves sexual interference with a human corpse, or
 - a person performing an act of intercourse or oral sex with an animal
 - an act which involves the non-consensual penetration of a person's vagina, anus or mouth by another with the other person's penis, or
 - an act which involves the non-consensual sexual penetration of a person's vagina or anus by another with a part of the other person's body or anything else,
- and a reasonable person would think that any such person or animal was real.

How will the BBFC regulate age-verification for online pornography?

- 1 Guidance
- 2 Enforcement powers
- 3 Proportionate approach



Enforcement

Ancillary Service Providers (ASPs):

social media, search engines, advertisers

Payment-Services Providers (PSPs) :

Visa, Mastercard, PayPal

Internet Service Providers (ISPs):

Including mobile network operators

Proportionality

- Investigate sites which are **most popular** and sites which are **reported**
- Make provisional contact **before** taking action
- Choose the **most effective** course of action



What can you do?

1. Be supportive voices within schools and to parents

Feel empowered to say 'pornography is not for children'

2. Speak to young people about keeping safe online

AV is not the silver bullet!

3. Let us know what you know

Charities want to hear from you.
Childline is available to hear from your pupils.

Places to go for support

- CEOP / ThinkUKnow - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- O2 NSPCC online safety helpline - 0808 800 5002
- Net Aware - <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>
- NSPCC Helpline - 0808 800 5000 / help@nspcc.org.uk
- NSPCC e-safety school resources - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/e-safety-schools/>
- LGfL online safety resource centre - <https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/resource-centre>



research
in practice

NSPCC

**Thank you.
Any questions?**

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EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

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