

[Service Name]

[Via email]

Email: [PornSupervision@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:PornSupervision@ofcom.org.uk)

24 April 20215

Dear

## Deadline for mandatory age assurance on services that allow pornography.

From **25 July 2025**, services in scope of the Online Safety Act and which allow pornography, must implement highly effective age assurance to stop under-18s encountering that content. This letter sets out what services need to do in more detail and explains the consequences of non-compliance.

We would like to invite you to meet with members of Ofcom's Porn Supervision Team, who can answer questions about these rules. If you would like to arrange a virtual call, please contact [PornSupervision@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:PornSupervision@ofcom.org.uk)

### Background

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The Online Safety Act 2023 ('the Act') introduces new rules to make the internet safer for users in the UK, especially children. Ofcom is responsible for ensuring regulated online services comply with their duties under the Act. We're a UK-based regulator, but that doesn't mean the rules don't apply to sites based abroad. If people are visiting your site from the UK, you'll likely be in scope, wherever in the world you're based.

Part 3 of the Act places legal duties on you if you provide a user-to-user or search service. You can check if your service is in scope using [this tool](#). If you operate a service regulated under Part 3 of the Act and you allow pornography on your service, you will need to introduce highly effective age assurance for users by **25 July 2025**. These requirements are already in force for services publishing their own pornography and Ofcom has an [active enforcement programme](#) investigating non-compliance.

As a service, it is your responsibility to ensure that your age assurance process is "highly effective" at correctly determining whether a particular user is a child or an adult. You can read more about what "highly effective age assurance" means in our [quick guide](#). Below we cover the steps required in more detail. If you do not believe you are regulated under the Online Safety Act, you should write to us by **25 May 2025** and tell us the reasons why.

### Your duties under the Act

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As a service regulated under Part 3 of the Act, which allows pornography, you must:

1. have already carried out your [children's access assessment](#) which was due to be completed by **16 April 2025**.
2. implement highly effective age assurance to stop children normally encountering pornographic content on your service by **25 July 2025**.
  - If you implement highly effective age assurance only for part of your service, you will need to undertake a [children's risk assessment](#) for the parts that remain accessible to children by **24 July 2025**. This will tell you the steps you should take to protect children against other types of harmful content, on the parts of your service not restricted by age assurance (for example, on a non-explicit tour accessible before the age check).

- If you implement highly effective age assurance for the whole of your service by **25 July 2025**, you do not need to conduct a children's risk assessment. You should conduct a new [children's access assessment](#) at this point, recording the evidence that your age assurance process is effective at preventing under-18s from accessing pornography. The children's access assessment must be repeated annually, or sooner if there is evidence of reduced effectiveness of your age assurance process.

Full guidance on these 'protection of children' duties can be found [on this page](#). You can also read our [guidance on highly effective age assurance](#). As a service regulated under Part 3 of the Act, you will also be subject to a number of other duties, including a duty to implement measures to [mitigate the risk of illegal content on your service](#). A directory of information relevant to services which allow pornography can be found on our ['Adults Only'](#).

### **Consequences for not implementing age assurance**

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Failure to implement the necessary age assurance process by **25 July 2025** will result in referral to our Enforcement team, who can take a number of actions, including **imposing financial penalties** of up to 10% of a service's qualifying worldwide revenue, or £18 million, whichever is greater.

In the case of continued non-compliance, Ofcom may apply to the court for an order which would require third parties (such as your bank or internet service provider) to take action to **disrupt the provision of a non-compliant regulated service** - either by restricting the supply of services to you (such as advertising or payment services), or by restricting access to your service itself.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [PornSupervision@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:PornSupervision@ofcom.org.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

**Online Safety Supervision Team**