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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.9.2025)

The Commission is aware of the new measures put in place in the United Kingdom and has collaborated with Ofcom as part of an administrative arrangement signed in 2024.

The EU's commitment to protect children online is at the core of the Digital Services Act (DSA). The adoption of meaningful age verification measures by providers of online platforms hosting pornographic content is a priority for the Commission.

In May 2025, the Commission initiated proceedings to assess whether the providers of Pornhub, Stripchat, XNXX, and XVideos breached the DSA in relation to the ability of minors to access pornography and the apparent lack of age verification¹. In parallel, the Commission and the European Board for Digital Services launched a coordinated action under the DSA on minors accessing pornographic platforms of all sizes².

In July 2025, the Commission published guidelines on the protection of minors online. The guidelines set out the measures that providers of online platforms accessible to minors should adopt to comply with their obligation to ensure a high level of privacy, safety and security to minors³. These state that age verification should be put in place to restrict minors' access to content posing a high risk to their privacy, safety and security, and that should only be available for adults.

The Commission simultaneously launched the pilot phase of an age-verification app, intended to bridge the gap until the EU Digital Wallet becomes available in 2026⁴. The app can be made available by the Member States and used by providers of online platforms to verify whether a user is over 18, without revealing further identity information.

The Commission is committed to building on this years' progress and working towards meaningful solutions to protect minors online.

¹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-opens-investigations-safeguard-minors-pornographic-content-under-digital-services-act>.

² <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/european-board-digital-services-launches-coordinated-action-reinforce-protection-minors-regards>.

³ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/commission-publishes-guidelines-protection-minors>.

⁴ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-age-verification>.