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Answer given by Mr McGrath  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(1.9.2026)

Without prejudice to the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties, ensuring the application and enforcement of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is the responsibility of Member States Data Protection Authorities and courts. The Commission does not have the competence to enforce GDPR compliance against individual age verification services.

Any age verification app is required to comply with data protection rules, including by ensuring appropriate security measures to protect the personal data against the unauthorised or unlawful processing. The processing of biometric data for identification purposes constitutes special category of personal data and is therefore subject to additional rules.

The GDPR imposes restrictions on personal data transfers to countries or international organisations outside the European Economic Area. This is to ensure that the level of protection of individuals granted by the GDPR remains equivalent when data is exported.

The Commission released a blueprint for a robust EU-harmonised age verification solution that fully respects privacy and fundamental rights. It uses 'Zero-Knowledge Proof', a cryptographic technology which can securely prove that the owner has a valid age credential without revealing any other information. The solution does not allow identity tracking as the proof of age does not contain any identity data. The identity of the user is only checked once during the proof of age issuance. The Commission also recently made a Recommendation on establishing a common framework for EU wide Age Verification technologies<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Brussels, 29.4.2026 C(2026) 4225 final; Commission Recommendation of 29.4.2026 on establishing a common framework for EU wide Age Verification technologies <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2026/1035/oj/eng>.