



UK ONLINE SAFETY ACT RISK ASSESSMENT

OutUK – The UK Gay Men’s Guide

**Published by Out Europe BV
Effective 1st March 2025**

Version 1 - Completed 1st March 2025
Version 2 - Reviewed and Updated 16th April 2025
Version 3 - Reviewed and Updated 28th May 2025

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND



OutUK has been online for more than 25 years. It is the UK's gay men's guide with the latest gay news and information, gay sex advice, exclusive gay horoscopes and weekly sextalk features, guides to gay holiday destinations, plus thousands of galleries and videos.

The Premium Membership Area of the website is restricted to adults who are older than 18 years of age and wish to access and view sexually explicit material for their personal use, in their own private environment. Before viewing this content, they must confirm that they are not violating the community standards of the area or country they live in. They must also agree not show any content or image to minors or anyone else who might be offended by them. Access to this area is only possible by individuals verifying that they are over the age of 18 years using the services of Ofcom certified verification partners OneID. They confirm the age of individuals by referring to their mobile phone provider and/or bank.

All models featured in the Premium Membership Area of the website are at least 18 years of age, conforming to the 18 USC 2257 standard. All records are kept on file by the stated Custodian of Records. OutUK does not store any personal details of those that access the site. There is no User-to-User content on the website or external internet search facility.

SECTION 2: SUITABLE AND SUFFICIENT RISK ASSESSMENT

The Online Safety Act as interpreted by Ofcom states that risk assessments must meet the requirements of the legal risk assessment duties, including the 'suitable and sufficient' standard. It is for this reason that OutUK uses the services of Ofcom certified verification partners OneID to verify the age of any individual who wishes to access the website's Premium Membership area. This is a system that has been certified by Ofcom as being reliable and appropriate.

For this Risk Assessment to be suitable and sufficient, this assessment includes all the elements of an illegal content risk assessment specified in the Act (section 9(5) for U2U service providers and section 26(5) for search service providers).

This risk assessment is specific to our service and reflects the risks accurately. We have assessed that we have an adequate understanding of risks of our service, and we have been able to implement appropriate safety measures.

In this document we detail the judgement we have made on:

- a) the risk level of each of the different kinds of illegal harm covered by the Online Safety Act;
- b) the issues outlined in Ofcom's Risk Profiles;
- c) the characteristics of our service: its user base (for example, user numbers, age, languages, groups at risk, and groups increasing risk), functionalities, algorithmic systems (and how easily, quickly and widely they disseminate content), and the business model;
- d) any other relevant aspects of our service's design and operation, including any existing controls to mitigate harm such as governance, use of proactive technology, measures to promote users' media literacy and safe use of our service, and other systems and processes which could affect the level of risk;
- e) how our service is used – both the intended and unintended ways that people may use our service.

In the final section of this document company has also recognised the requirement to take appropriate steps to keep our risk assessment up to date, including when Ofcom makes a significant change to a Risk Profile that relates to our service; and the need for us to carry out a further risk assessment before making any significant change to any aspect of our service's design or operation, relating to that proposed change; and the need for us to keep a record of each risk assessment we carry out. We plan to review the risk assessment at least once per year, but probably more often.

DETERMINATION 1:

For the reasons stated above we have made a determination that this Risk Assessment is "Suitable and sufficient".

SECTION 3: ILLEGAL CONTENT RISK ASSESSMENT

To meet the requirements of the illegal content risk assessment set out in the Online Safety Act, we have assessed the risk of harm arising from each of the 17 kinds of priority illegal content and other illegal content (including non-priority content).

When we use the term 'illegal harm' we refer to the psychological or physical harm which can occur from a user encountering any illegal content (the 17 kinds of priority illegal content or other illegal content). OutUK has no U2U service being used for the commission or facilitation of an offence, neither does it have an external internet search facility.

However, in order that this risk assessment is suitable and sufficient, it will include all the elements of an illegal content risk assessment specified in the Online Safety Act (section 9(5) for U2U service providers and section 26(5) for search service providers). This assessment is specific to our service and reflects the risks accurately.

We are now going to:

a) Assess the risk of users encountering each of the 17 kinds of priority illegal content and other illegal content, and the risk of a U2U service being used for the commission or facilitation of a priority offence. The 17 kinds of priority illegal content are:

1. Terrorism

There is no content of this nature on the website.

2. Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA)

- a. Grooming
- b. Image-based Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)
- c. CSAM URLs

There is no content of this nature on the website.

3. Hate

There is no content of this nature on the website.

4. Harassment, stalking, threats and abuse

There is no content of this nature on the website.

5. Controlling or coercive behaviour

There is no content of this nature on the website.

6. Intimate image abuse

There is no content of this nature on the website.

7. Extreme pornography

There is no content of this nature on the website.

8. Sexual exploitation of adults

There is no content of this nature on the website.

9. Human trafficking

There is no content of this nature on the website.

10. Unlawful immigration

There is no content of this nature on the website.

11. Fraud and financial offences

There is no content of this nature on the website.

12. Proceeds of crime

There is no content of this nature on the website.

13. Drugs and psychoactive substances

There is no content of this nature on the website.

14. Firearms, knives and other weapons

There is no content of this nature on the website.

15. Encouraging or assisting suicide

There is no content of this nature on the website.

16. Foreign interference

There is no content of this nature on the website.

17. Animal cruelty

There is no content of this nature on the website.

In addition to considering each of the 17 kinds of priority illegal content, we have considered whether there is any evidence or reason to believe that other types of illegal harm that aren't listed as priority offences in the Online Safety Act are likely to occur on our service.

We have no evidence to suggest that any such non-priority illegal content is likely to appear on the website as it is closely edited by owners of the website who are the only people (apart from the news in the outspoken section) who are able to upload content to the website.

An RSS.app provides the news that is featured in the outspoken section of the website. The software was devised by FeedsApp Incorporated from the USA and contributors to its UK content include recognised and respected daily and weekend newspaper publishers, BBC News, ITN and Sky News. None of the content published has ever posed a risk of being classed as illegal content, or non-priority illegal content.

DETERMINATION 2:

For the reasons stated above we have made a determination that the risk of users encountering each of the 17 kinds of priority illegal content is "Negligible or no risk".

b) Take into account Ofcom's Risk Profiles:

Ofcom's Risk Profiles require all service providers to consider:

1. Risk factors identified through relevant Risk Profile

OutUK does not fall within the category of a User-to-User Service or a Search Service.

2. User complaints and reports

There have been no complaints or reports of possible harm made to website during the 25 years of its existence online. The same management are in control of the website now as have been since its launch.

3. User data (for example age, language, groups at risk)

The users of this website are adult gay men over the age of 18. It is not possible to access the more sexually explicit images without being over 18 and having your age verified by Ofcom certified verification partners OneID. They confirm the age of individuals by referring to their mobile phone provider and/or bank.

4. Retrospective analysis of incidents of harm

There have been no incidents of harm. None of the images in the Premium Membership Area of the website could be classed as extreme or harmful. The website has always specifically avoided any such material as both a website style and a company policy.

5. Relevant sections of Ofcom's Register of Risks

All the risks outlined by Ofcom in their guidance have been addressed in this Risk Assessment.

6. Evidence drawn from existing controls

The Premium Membership Area of the website is aimed at adults who are 18 years of age or older and wish to access and view sexually explicit material for their personal use, in their own private environment. By viewing this content, they must confirm that they are not violating the community standards of the area or country they live in. They must not show any content or image to minors or anyone else who might be offended by them.

All models featured on the website in the Premium Membership Area are at least 18 years of age (18 USC 2257). All records are kept on file by the Custodian of Records. OutUK does not store any personal details of those that access the site.

7. Other relevant information (including other characteristics of our service that may increase or decrease risk of harm, such as existing controls)

The Premium Membership Area of the website is restricted to adults who are 18 years of age or older and wish to access and view sexually explicit material for their personal use, in their own private environment. Before viewing this content, they must confirm that they are not violating the community standards of the area or country they live in. They must also agree not show any content or image to minors or anyone else who might be offended by them. Ofcom certified verification partners OneID confirm the age of individuals wishing to access this Premium area by referring to an individual's mobile phone provider and/or bank. This is a system that has been certified by Ofcom as being reliable and appropriate.

None of the images in the Premium Membership Area of the website could be classed as extreme or harmful. It is not possible to access the section's more adult images without verifying that your age is over 18 years with Ofcom certified verification partners OneID.

All models featured in the Premium Membership Area of the website are at least 18 years of age, conforming to the 18 USC 2257 standard. All records are kept on file by the stated Custodian of Records.

All the content of the website outside of the Premium Membership Area consists only of text accompanied a gif or image which is not itself pornographic content, an emoji or other symbol. All the content outside of the Premium Membership Area therefore falls within the definition of not being pornographic. Please refer to sections 4 and 5 of this document which detail the exact provisions of the Online Safety Act and Ofcom's Interpretation and Guidance.

DETERMINATION 3:

For the reasons stated above we have made a determination that Ofcom's Risk Profiles as stated confirm that level of risk posed by the content of the website OutUK is "Negligible or no risk".

c) Consider the characteristics of our service: its user base (for example, user numbers, age, languages, groups at risk, and groups increasing risk), functionalities, algorithmic systems (and how easily, quickly and widely they disseminate content), and the business model:

As previously stated, the subscription based Premium Membership Area of the website is restricted to adults who are 18 years of age or older and wish to access and view sexually explicit material for their personal use, in their own private environment. Before viewing this content, they must confirm that they are not violating the community standards of the area or country they live in. They must also agree not show any content or image to minors or anyone else who might be offended by them.

None of the images in the Premium Membership Area of the website could be classed as extreme or harmful. It is not possible to access the section's more adult images without verifying that your age is over 18 years with Ofcom certified verification partners OneID.

All models featured in the Premium Membership Area of the website are at least 18 years of age, conforming to the 18 USC 2257 standard. All records are kept on file by the stated Custodian of Records.

The website attracts between 100-500 users per day. All users must confirm they are over 18 years of age. All the website is published in English. We know of no group of people who are at risk from the website or under increasing risk from the website.

There are no built-in functionalities or algorithmic systems, and we do not believe that content on the website is disseminated to other people. In the 25 years of the website's existence, we know of no occasion where our content has inappropriately appeared elsewhere.

OutUK is primarily targeted towards gay men in the UK and Europe and provides a gay men's guide to life with the latest gay news and information, gay sex advice, exclusive gay horoscopes and weekly sextalk features as well as guides to gay holiday destinations.

All this content consists only of text, accompanied a gif or image which is not itself pornographic content, an emoji or other symbol. All the content outside of the Premium Membership Area therefore falls within the definition of not being pornographic. Please refer to sections 4 and 5 of this document which detail the exact provisions of the Online Safety Act and Ofcom's Interpretation and Guidance.

DETERMINATION 4:

The characteristics of our service ensure that level of risk posed by the content of the website OutUK is "Negligible or no risk".

d) Consider any other relevant aspects of your service's design and operation, including any existing controls to mitigate harm such as governance, use of proactive technology, measures to promote users' media literacy and safe use of your service, and other systems and processes which could affect the level of risk:

All the content outside of the Premium Membership Area is text based with illustrative images. None of the images are pornographic in nature. The website is primarily driven by news and current events with an emphasis on issues relating to gay men. There are entertainment-based items including features, profiles, horoscopes and fictional stories.

Access to the Premium Membership Area is restricted by username and password which needs to be entered by the member on each visit to the website. The technology, systems and processes of the website ensure that nobody under the age of 18 can access the Premium Membership Area.

There have been no complaints or reports of possible harm made to website during the 25 years of its existence online. The same management are in control of the website now as have been since its launch.

DETERMINATION 5:

The service's design and operation ensure that level of risk posed by the content of the website OutUK is "Negligible or no risk".

e) Consider how your service is used – both the intended and unintended ways that people may use your service.

The website attracts between 100-500 users per day. All users must confirm they are over 18 years of age. All the website is published in English. We know of no group of people who are at risk from the website or under increasing risk from the website. We know of no harmful intended and unintended way that people may use our service.

DETERMINATION 6:

The way our service is used ensures that level of risk posed by the content of the website OutUK is "Negligible or no risk".



UK
Parliament

SECTION 4: ONLINE SAFETY ACT (PART 5 SECTION 79)

“Provider pornographic content” and “regulated provider pornographic content”

(1) This section applies for the purposes of this Part.

(2) “Provider pornographic content”, in relation to an internet service, means pornographic content that is published or displayed on the service by the provider of the service or by a person acting on behalf of the provider, including pornographic content published or displayed on the service by means of -

(a) software or an automated tool or algorithm applied by the provider or by a person acting on behalf of the provider, or

(b) an automated tool or algorithm made available on the service by the provider or by a person acting on behalf of the provider.

(3) “Regulated provider pornographic content”, in relation to an internet service, means provider pornographic content other than content within subsection (4) or (5).

(4) Content is within this subsection if it -

(a) consists only of text, or

(b) consists only of text accompanied by -

(i) a GIF which is not itself pornographic content,

(ii) an emoji or other symbol, or

(iii) a combination of content mentioned in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii).

(5) Content is within this subsection if it consists of a paid-for advertisement (see section 236).

(6) References to pornographic content that is “published or displayed” on a service—

(a) include, in particular -

(i) references to pornographic content that is only visible or audible to users as a result of interacting with content that is blurred, distorted or obscured (for example, by clicking on such content), but only where the pornographic content is present on the service,

(ii) references to pornographic content that is embedded on the service, and

(iii) references to pornographic content that is generated on the service by means of an automated tool or algorithm in response to a prompt by a user and is only visible or audible to that user (no matter for how short a time).

(b) do not include references to pornographic content that appears in search results of a search service or a combined service.

(7) Pornographic content that is user-generated content in relation to an internet service is not to be regarded as provider pornographic content in relation to that service.

(8) In this section - “search results” has the meaning given by section 57(3); “user-generated content” has the meaning given by section 55 (see subsections (3) and (4) of that section).



SECTION 5: OFCOM INTERPRETATION AND GUIDANCE

The Office of Communications, commonly known as Ofcom, is the government-approved regulatory and competition authority for the broadcasting, internet, telecommunications and postal industries of the United Kingdom. Ofcom has wide-ranging powers across the television, radio, telecoms, internet and postal sectors.

In July 2022, Ofcom was given powers to regulate online internet companies that have ties to the UK under the provisions of the Online Safety Bill, in order to prevent, identify and remove content online that depicts child sexual abuse and exploitation.

They have determined that under Part 5 of the Bill, dedicated pornography sites must ensure children are “not normally able” to access content on their services.

Adult users must be willing to verify their age if the deployment of age assurance is to be successful in protecting children from accessing porn. They believe that pornography services will resist measures that they fear will keep their users away, and those measures that are introduced may be circumvented.

Their research has found that adults broadly support the idea of age assurance to prevent children from accessing pornography, but many users view it as “an interruption and a hassle” and young men in particular are sceptical of its effectiveness and share methods for circumventing measures. Successful uptake of age assurance will therefore require privacy preserving technological solutions that add minimal friction to the user journey and offer transparency around the processing of personal data.

This type of regulation will be new for many online pornography services. We have seen that the industry is prepared to legally challenge or circumvent regulations that create new barriers for their users to access their content. The experience of other countries is that legal action by the industry delays the enforcement of the new rules.

Ofcom will ensure our process for setting our codes and guidance is robust and comprehensive. We need to allow sufficient time for proper consultation and evidence gathering because we are confident this will enable us to get effective, enforceable rules into place more quickly, with greater prospects of withstanding legal challenge.

DETERMINATION 7:

The controls and age assurance measures that have implemented on the Premium Membership Area of the website ensures that a person under the age of 18 is “not normally able” to access the content of this area and therefore the level of risk posed is “Negligible or no risk”.

SECTION 6: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - OnlineSafetyAct.co.uk

A widely used and well-respected website that offers further information can be found at onlinesafetyact.co.uk. It is regularly updated to reflect changes in interpretation of the Online Safety Act. **Nothing on the site can be classed as legal advice** and unless otherwise stated, everything on the site has been created by Neil Brown and licensed under [Creative Commons CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/). This site is not run by, or affiliated with, Ofcom. It is however a useful guide to how those in the online industries of the UK are reacting to the Online Safety Act and its interpretation by Ofcom.

The OSA and pornographic content: who is in scope, and what constitutes "pornographic content"

Suggested reading

- Ofcom's "[Guidance on highly effective age assurance and other Part 5 duties](#)"
- Ofcom's "[Statement: Age Assurance and Children's Access](#)"

Summary

Part 5 of the Online Safety Act 2023 has [rules about pornographic content](#).

The rules apply to people/companies which make pornographic content available on their own internet service, if that service is not exempt, and has either a significant number of UK users or has the UK as a target market.

The Part 5 rules do not apply to user-generated content (e.g. "tube" sites), or user-to-user services: these are regulated as user-to-user services under Part 3 instead.

One service may be a hybrid in the sense of some of it falling within the Part 5 porn rules, and some of it falling within the Part 3 user-to-user service rules.

Content is considered pornographic if it is "of such a nature that it is reasonable to assume that it was produced solely or principally for the purpose of sexual arousal". Ofcom suggests that this requires a contextual analysis, and that the intention of the provider is not relevant.

Text-only content is out of scope.

Who is in scope?

The OSA porn rules apply anyone who provides an internet service - a "service that is made available by means of the internet" ([s228](#)) - which meets all of the following tests:

- regulated provider pornographic content is published or displayed on the service,
- the service is not exempt, and
- the service has links with the United Kingdom. ([s80\(2\)](#))

A regulated provider's own pornographic content

The definition of "provider pornographic content" ([s79\(2\)](#)) encompasses pornographic content which is published or displayed on an internet service by the provider of the service (or someone acting on their behalf).

It does not include content which is posted by someone else, such as user-generated content. ([s79\(7\)](#))

The meaning of "pornographic content"

"Pornographic content" means:

content of such a nature that it is reasonable to assume that it was produced solely or principally for the purpose of sexual arousal.

It includes pornographic content which is visible or audible to users as a result of interacting with content that is blurred, distorted or obscured. (s79(6))

Ofcom has said (paragraph 4.29) that:

Whether content has been produced either solely or principally for the purpose of sexual arousal is likely to be dependent on the nature of the content itself, having taken the relevant contextual factors into account, rather than the intent of the uploading user or any viewer of it.

This seems a bit odd to me, since the test "was it produced solely or principally for the purpose of sexual arousal" suggests to me that the producer had to have that goal when they produced it.

I am unconvinced that Ofcom is correct in saying that the intention of the provider is not relevant.

That said, it may well be beneficial for some providers to rely on Ofcom's statement that one must take (undefined) "relevant contextual factors" (later, "informed by the broader factual context") into account, since this suggests that Ofcom will look not just at any image or video in isolation, but look at the overall context in which it is presented.

Ofcom has said (paragraph 4.28) that ultimately, it is for the courts to interpret its meaning. Further guidance on pornographic content should be coming in April 2025.

Are any of the following types of content "produced solely or principally for the purposes of sexual arousal"?

- content produced for artistic purposes
- content produced for educational purposes
- content produced for self-discovery, body positivity / transformation, or similar purposes
- a diary of personal reflections / thoughts about personal experiences
- non-sexual nude content (although I suspect some will argue that certain nude body parts are inherently sexual)

Text (alone, or with some limited images) is out of scope s79(4) excludes certain text content:

- Text-only content is out of scope.
- Text accompanied by either or both a GIF (yes, the law is *that specific* about the image format) which is not in itself pornographic, or an emoji or other symbol, or a combination of those things, is also out of scope.

Audio content is in scope.

The limited exemptions in s79(4) means that, since it is not expressly out of scope, audio content is in scope.

It is unclear how this will be interpreted.

It seems likely that recordings of actual or simulated sexual activity are likely to be caught.

It is more questionable whether this would include someone reading aloud the textual content of their side - what some people term "audio porn".

Indeed, it would be perverse from a disability rights perspective if sighted users were permitted to read textual erotica without the constraints of Part 5, but that visually-impaired readers could not access the same words in a form more suitable for their needs. Similarly, it seems arbitrary to draw a distinction between someone using a text-to-speech engine to read text content aloud, and someone reading aloud that very same text in their own voice.

Is the pornographic content "published or displayed" on the service?

Whether or not pornographic content is "published or displayed" on the service seems to be a relatively straight forward matter.

Ofcom says ([para 3.15](#)) that it is likely to consider a service provider to have exercised control over the pornographic content appearing on its service where it exercises editorial control over the nature, selection or presentation of the content.

It gives three examples:

- where an individual who creates pornographic content uploads and publishes it on an online service that they control or run
- where a studio produces pornographic content and then publishes this content on an online service that the studio controls or runs
- where a service provider has designed and provided interactive games featuring pornographic imagery on an online service which it controls or runs

It also says that:

a provider of such a service publishes or displays pornographic content on, for example, a premium sub-section of its site, or someone else does so on its behalf, that pornographic content will be within scope of the Part 5 duties (unless otherwise exempt...)

[s79\(6\)](#) sets out three specific situations in which pornographic content is considered to be "published or displayed" on the service:

- pornographic content that is only visible or audible to users as a result of interacting with content that is blurred, distorted or obscured (for example, by clicking on such content)
- pornographic content that is embedded on the service
- pornographic content that is generated on the service by means of an automated tool or algorithm in response to a prompt by a user and is only visible or audible to that user (no matter for how short a time)

Is the service exempt?

Part 5 is about service providers publishing or displaying pornography on their own service. [User-to-User services](#) are outside the scope of Part 5; they fall within Part 3 instead. A service is also "exempt" from the Part 5 porn rules if it is:

- [a user-to-user service](#) or a search service of a description that is exempt as provided for by Schedule 1, or
- an internet service of [a kind described in Schedule 9](#).

I have not attempted to summarise Schedule 9. I am not sure it will be helpful to too many people reading this, but it would be worth readers skimming through it to see if any part of it is relevant to them anyway.

Does the service have links with the United Kingdom?

A service has links with the United Kingdom if:

- the service has a significant number of United Kingdom users, or
- United Kingdom users form one of the target markets for the service (or the only target market).

Does the service have a significant number of United Kingdom users?

The OSA does not say what constitutes a "significant number of United Kingdom users". Ofcom has declined to give actual or indicative figures.

Ofcom says ([para 3.31](#)):

We consider that the concept of "significant number of UK users" should be understood as meaning that the number of UK users on the service is material in the nature and context of the service in question, rather than the number of UK users of the service necessarily being a large or substantial number.

This feels odd to me, since it indicates that a tiny service with just 10 users, of which five - 50% - are in the UK, could be said to have a "significant number of UK users", whereas a massive service with 100,000 users, of which 5,000 (5%) are in the UK might not have a "significant number of UK users", even though, in real terms, there are 200 times more United Kingdom users in that second case.

Ofcom goes on to say:

We do not consider that the UK links test is intended to exclude services from the scope of the Part 5 duties simply because they have relatively small user bases, as this would not align with the purpose of the Part 5 duties which is to secure that children in the UK should not normally be able to encounter regulated provider pornographic content. We therefore suggest service providers err on the side of caution when assessing whether they have a significant number of UK users.

(If a service does not have a significant number of United Kingdom users but has the UK as a target market (below), it still has links to the UK.)

Is the UK a "target market" for the service?

The OSA does not define what constitutes a "target market".

In the context of a personal sex blog, for instance, it might be questionable whether, on a plain English interpretation, there is a "target market" at all, particularly if someone is simply writing and publishing for their own pleasure.

Ofcom's view ([para 3.33](#)) is that there are a variety of factors which could indicate the UK is a target market for a service, including if the service meets any of the following:

- is designed for UK users
- is promoted or marketed toward UK users
- generates revenue from UK users either directly (e.g. via subscriptions or sales) or indirectly (e.g. through advertising to UK users, including people or organisations)
- includes functionalities or content that is tailored for UK users
- has a UK domain or provides a UK contact address and/or telephone contact number

(If a service does not have the UK as a target market but has a significant number of United Kingdom users (above), it still has links to the UK.)

What does a regulated porn provider have to do?

A person who provides an in-scope internet service has to comply with the rules set out in [s81](#).

The duties set out in section 81 extend only to the design, operation and use of an internet service in the United Kingdom.

DETERMINATION 8:

Whilst the content of this section which has been provided by the editor of the onlinesafetyact.co.uk is not legal advice, it does provide a reasonable opinion as to how Ofcom are interpreting the Act. The information here confirms that the determinations that have been made in this document are reasonable. OutUK has controls and age assurance measures that ensures that a person under the age of 18 is “not normally able” to access pornographic content and the level of risk posed to those under the age of 18 by the website is "Negligible or no risk".

SECTION 7:

OutUK RISK ASSESSMENTS

RISK ASSESSMENT 1

The service to which the risk assessment relates:

OutUK - found online at www.outuk.com

The date the risk assessment was completed, or if applicable, the date the risk assessment was reviewed or updated:

1st March 2025

Who completed the risk assessment:

NAME REDACTED ONLY FOR THIS ONLINE PUBLICATION

The named person responsible for the risk assessment:

NAME REDACTED ONLY FOR THIS ONLINE PUBLICATION

Who approved the risk assessment:

NAME REDACTED ONLY FOR THIS ONLINE PUBLICATION

Confirmation that this risk assessment is "Suitable and sufficient":

In section 2 of this document we have assessed the way in which the risk assessment has been compiled.

DETERMINATION 1:

We have made a determination that this Risk Assessment is "Suitable and sufficient".

Confirmation that our service has consulted Ofcom's Risk Profiles:

In section 3 of this document we have recorded the outcomes of the Risk Profiles questionnaire provided by Ofcom.

DETERMINATION 3:

We have made a determination that Ofcom's Risk Profiles as stated confirm that level of risk posed by the content of the website OutUK is "Negligible or no risk".

DETERMINATION 4:

We have made a determination that the characteristics of our service ensure that level of risk posed by the content of the website OutUK is "Negligible or no risk".

DETERMINATION 5:

We have made a determination that the service's design and operation ensure that level of risk posed by the content of the website OutUK is "Negligible or no risk".

DETERMINATION 6:

We have made a determination that the way our service is used ensures that level of risk posed by the content of the website OutUK is "Negligible or no risk".

A record of any risk factors from Ofcom's Risk Profiles which are relevant to our service:
We have recorded our findings in section 3 of this document.

A list of any additional characteristics (including user base, business models, functionalities, governance, and systems and processes) you have considered alongside the risk factors identified in Ofcom's Risk Profiles:

We have recorded our findings in section 3 of this document.

Consideration of the role of any existing controls already in operation on our service at the time of this risk assessment, stating what these controls are, what risks they are intended to mitigate and how they do this, and how the consideration of the existing controls has impacted the risk level we have assigned a kind of illegal content:

We have recorded our findings in section 3 of this document.

The level of risk (high, medium, low, negligible) assigned to each of the 17 kinds of priority illegal content (and if you are a U2U service, a risk level for each kind of CSAM) and any relevant other illegal content, and an evidence-based explanation of the decision. Where appropriate, this should also include the level of risk assigned to subcategories of harm (including image-based CSAM, CSAM URLs, and Grooming):

We have recorded our findings in section 3 of this document.

A list of the evidence and summary of the reasoning that has informed the assessment of likelihood and impact of each of the 17 kinds of priority illegal content and any relevant other illegal content:

We have recorded our findings in section 3 of this document.

DETERMINATION 2:

For the reasons stated above we have made a determination that the risk of users encountering each of the 17 kinds of priority illegal content is "Negligible or no risk".

Confirmation that persons under the age of 18 are "not normally able" to access pornographic content:

DETERMINATION 7:

The controls and age assurance measures that have implemented on the Premium Membership Area of the website ensures that a person under the age of 18 is "not normally able" to access the content of this area and therefore the level of risk posed is "Negligible or no risk".

Confirmation that determinations that have been made in this document are reasonable:

DETERMINATION 8:

Whilst the content of this section which has been provided by the editor of the onlinesafetyact.co.uk is not legal advice, it does provide a reasonable opinion as to how Ofcom are interpreting the Act. The information here confirms that the determinations that have been made in this document are reasonable. OutUK has controls and age assurance measures that ensures that a person under the age of 18 is "not normally able" to access pornographic content and the level of risk posed to those under the age of 18 by the website is "Negligible or no risk".

Confirmation that the findings of this risk assessment have been reported, and recorded, through appropriate governance channels:

This risk assessment has been reviewed by all the directors of Out Europe BV.

Information regarding how your service takes appropriate steps to keep the risk assessment up to date (for example, a written policy):

We have provided our written company policy in section 8 of this document.

| Risk Assessment Issue | Relevant Section | Determination |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) Confirmation that the Risk Assessment is "Suitable and sufficient" | Section 2 | Suitable and sufficient |
| 2) Risk of users encountering each of the 17 kinds of priority illegal content | Section 3 | Negligible or no risk |
| 3) Ofcom's Risk Profiles | Section 3 | Negligible or no risk |
| 4) Characteristics of our service | Section 3 | Negligible or no risk |
| 5) Design and operation of our service | Section 3 | Negligible or no risk |
| 6) The way our service is used | Section 3 | Negligible or no risk |
| 7) Controls and age assurance measures | Section 5 | Negligible or no risk |
| 8) Determinations that have been made in this document are reasonable | Section 6 | Determinations are reasonable |
| Overall Conclusion | | |
| Our evidence shows it is not possible or extremely unlikely that illegal harm takes place by means of our service, and therefore we have assessed the risk of that harm as 'negligible or no risk'. We do not meet any of the conditions for low/medium/high risk as defined in the rows above. | All Sections | Negligible or no risk |

Risk Assessment 1 completed - 1st March 2025

SECTION 8: ONGOING RESPONSIBILITIES

We accept that there are several duties in the Online Safety Act that relate to reviewing, updating, or completing new risk assessments. Out Europe BV is accepting this document as a written company policy that will be followed from the date of this publication, namely 1st March 2025. Under this written company policy:

- 1) We will take appropriate steps to keep our risk assessments up to date, including when Ofcom makes a significant change to a Risk Profile that relates to our service;
 - 2) We will carry out a further risk assessment before making any significant change to any aspect of our service's design or operation, relating to that proposed change;
 - 3) We will keep a record in this document of each risk assessment we conduct, which will include a record of our illegal content risk assessment. It will include details of how the assessment was conducted and its findings;
 - 4) We will keep our risk assessment up to date and comply with Ofcom's recommendation that risk assessments be reviewed at least every 12 months;
 - 5) We will continue to ensure that no pornographic material, as defined in the Online Safety Act, appears on OutUK outside of the Premium Membership Area;
 - 6) We will continue to ensure that a person under the age of 18 is "not normally able" to access the content of the Premium Membership Area, and that none of the images displayed may be classed as extreme or harmful;
 - 7) We will ensure that we provide up-to-date contact information on our website OutUK, in the site information section; and
 - 8) We will ensure that this document is made available on our website OutUK, in the site information section.
- 9) Individual's names in this document have been redacted for publication online (via the OutUK website) as shown by the statement:

NAME REDACTED ONLY FOR THIS ONLINE PUBLICATION

The names of these responsible individuals are set out in full in records held at the company's offices. They are available for statutory authorities and if required by law. Any such request for further information about the OutUK website and how it operates should be sent to **support@outuk.com**.

Out Europe BV 1288072
Velsen-Noord, Nederland
1st March 2025

RISK ASSESSMENT 2

We have carried out a review of the risk assessment completed in March 2025, and have confirmed that all of the findings of that report continue to be applicable as of the date of the review, namely 16th April 2025.

We note that several provisions of the Online Safety Act come into effect from today, hence the need to review the risk assessment that was previously completed.

We also note that Ofcom state on their website that:

Most services do not need to send their records to Ofcom but should be aware that we can ask for them at any time.

You must take steps to keep your risk assessment up to date. You should review it at least every 12 months to make sure that it still accurately reflects the risks on your service and that the measures you implemented to protect users from harm are effective.

If you plan to make a significant change to your service, you must carry out a new risk assessment before making the change.

We remain fully compliant with these requirements.

Risk assessment 2 updated information:

The service to which the risk assessment relates:

OutUK - found online at www.outuk.com

The date the risk assessment was completed, or if applicable, the date the risk assessment was reviewed or updated:

16th April 2025

The reason for such a review of this risk assessment being undertaken:

A reported change to Ofcom's guidance

Who completed the risk assessment:

NAME REDACTED ONLY FOR THIS ONLINE PUBLICATION

The named person responsible for the risk assessment:

NAME REDACTED ONLY FOR THIS ONLINE PUBLICATION

Who approved the risk assessment:

NAME REDACTED ONLY FOR THIS ONLINE PUBLICATION

Out Europe BV 1288072
Velsen-Noord, Nederland
16th April 2025

RISK ASSESSMENT 3

We have carried out a review of the risk assessment completed in March 2025, and have confirmed that all of the findings of that report continue to be applicable as of the date of this additional review, namely 28th May 2025.

In Section 8 Clause 2 we undertook to: ... *carry out a further risk assessment before making any significant change to any aspect of our service's design or operation* ...

On 28th May 2025 we instigated a new verification process for individuals who wish to access OutUK's Premium Membership Area. Access is now only possible by individuals verifying that they are over the age of 18 years using the services of the Ofcom certified verification partners OneID. They confirm the age of individuals by referring to their mobile phone provider and/or bank. This is a system that has been certified by Ofcom as being reliable and appropriate.

We note that Ofcom continue to state on their website that:

Most services do not need to send their records to Ofcom but should be aware that we can ask for them at any time.

You must take steps to keep your risk assessment up to date. You should review it at least every 12 months to make sure that it still accurately reflects the risks on your service and that the measures you implemented to protect users from harm are effective.

If you plan to make a significant change to your service, you must carry out a new risk assessment before making the change.

We remain fully compliant with these requirements.

Risk assessment 2 updated information:

The service to which the risk assessment relates:

OutUK - found online at www.outuk.com

The date the risk assessment was completed, or if applicable, the date the risk assessment was reviewed or updated:

28th May 2025

The reason for such a review of this risk assessment being undertaken:

Instigation of the OneID Verification Service to verify that individuals who wish to access OutUK's Premium Membership Area are at least 18 years of age

Who completed the risk assessment:

NAME REDACTED ONLY FOR THIS ONLINE PUBLICATION

The named person responsible for the risk assessment:

NAME REDACTED ONLY FOR THIS ONLINE PUBLICATION

Who approved the risk assessment:

NAME REDACTED ONLY FOR THIS ONLINE PUBLICATION

Out Europe BV 1288072
Velsen-Noord, Nederland
28th May 2025