## Ofcom

## User ages calculation Scenario mapping

## Wave 2 - 2024

## User ages calculation

As part of the questionnaire, we collect the following data points to calculate children's user age:

- The real current age of the child
- That they use at least $1 \mathrm{app} / \mathrm{site}$ from the list we have in our questionnaire
- That the child has their own profile on the app(s)/site(s) they use

To determine what age they have on their profile for the apps/sites they use - we then calculated their user age with the following data points:

- The real current age of the child
- How long they have had a profile on the site/app
- What age they used when setting up the account or, if they had changed their DOB, what age they have changed their profile to now
- A range of scenarios were considered and applied depending on the answers provided by children
- All scenarios considered are included in this pack

There are a list of caveats to take into consideration when reviewing our calculations - please refer to the main chart pack for these.

Scenario 1 - A child over 13 that said they entered their actual age at set up

Length of time on profile (Q3)

DOB at set up (Q8/Q8a)

If DOB at set up was their actual age

Actual age of child
(P3)


Assumption


USER AGE


Example

Joe is 17 , he entered his actual date of birth when profile was set up - therefore, his user age is 17.

Scenario 2 - A child under 13 that said they entered their actual age at set up (but we know this can't be the case, so we assumed they entered 13 at set up)


Child cannot have put actual age as their DOB at set up, therefore assume they put age 13 . Assume length of time on profile as 0 years


Joe is 9 , he said he entered his actual date of birth when profile was set up - which can't be true as they have to have a minimum user age of 13 . We therefore assume his joining age is

He's been on the platform for 0 years; therefore, his user age is 13 .

Between 6-11 months


| Child cannot have put |
| :---: |
| actual age as their DOB |
| at set up, therefore |
| assume they put age 13 . |
| Assume length of time |
| on profile as 1 year |

User age = 13 plus length of time on profile

[^0]Scenario 2 - A child under 13 that said they entered their actual age at set up (but we know this can't be the case, so we assumed they entered 13 at set up)

|  | Length of time on profile (Q3) | DOB at set up | Actual age of child (P3) | Assumption | USER AGE | Example |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Scenario 2 (3) | Between 1-5 years | If DOB at set up was their actual age | Under 13 | Child cannot have put actual age as their DOB at set up, therefore assume they put age 13. | User age = <br> 13 plus length of time on profile | Joe is 9 , he said he entered his actual date of birth when profile was set up - which can't be true as they have to have a minimum user age of 13 . We therefore assume his joining age is 13. <br> He's been on the platform for 3 years; therefore, his user age is 16 . |
| Scenario 2 (4) | More than 5 years | If DOB at set up was their actual age | Under 13 | Child cannot have put actual age as their DOB at set up, therefore assume they put age 13 . Assume length of time on profile as 6 years | User age = <br> 13 plus length of time on profile | Joe is 9 , he said he entered his actual date of irth when profile was set up - which can't be rue as they have to have a minimum user age of 13 . We therefore assume his joining age is 13 <br> He's been on the platform for 6 years; <br> therefore, his user age is 19 which equates to <br> 18+ |
| Scenario 2 (5) | Don't remember | If DOB at set up was their actual age | Under 13 | Child cannot have put actual age as their DOB at set up, therefore assume they put age 13. | User age = at least 13 | Joe is 9 , he said he entered his actual date of birth when profile was set up - which can't be true as they have to have a minimum user age of 13 . We therefore assume his joining age is 13. He can't remember how long he has had the profile, therefore we assume minimum of 0 years, so his user age is at least 13 . |

Scenario 3-Children who entered a DOB at set up which made their social
media profile have a user age that is older than their actual age

Length of time on profile (Q3)


User age = 13 plus length of time on profile his 9 ,he said he entered a date of birth which made him 11 when profile was set up which can't be true they have to have a minimum user age of 13 . We therefore assume his joining age is 13 .
He's been on the platform for 0 years; therefore, his user age is 13
USER AGE

Between 0-5 months


1) User age = 13 plus length of time on profile (If the user age is above or equals the actual age)
2) User age = 13 plus length of time on profile (If the user age is lower than the actual age)
Excluded from calculation
3) If the user age is above or equals the actual age: Joe is 13 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 12 when profile was se up - which can't be true they have to have a minimum user age of 13 . We therefore assume his joining age is 13
He's been on the platform for 0 years; therefore, his user age is 13
4) If the user age is lower than the actual age Joe is 15 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 12 when profile was set up Wich can't be true they have to have a minimum user age of 13 . We therefore assume his joining age is 13
He's been on the platform for 0 years; therefore, his user age is 13
However, his user age now is lower than his actual age, because the research only looks at children whose user age is older than their actual age, this case will be excluded from the user age calculation

Scenario 3 - Children who entered a DOB at set up which made their social
media profile have a user age that is older than their actual age

Length of time on profile (Q3)

DOB at set up (Q8a) Actual age of child
(P3)


Child cannot have put under 13 as their DOB at set up, therefore assume they put age 13. Assume length of time on profile as 1 year.

## User age = 13

 plus length of timeExample
oe is 9 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 11 when profile was set up - which can't be true they have to have a minimum user age of 13. We therefore assume his joining age is 13 . He's been on the platform for 1 year; therefore, his user age is 14 .



1) User age = 13 plus length of time on profile (If the user age is above or equals the actual age)
2) User age $=13$ plus length of time on profile (If the user age is lower than the actual age) Excluded from calculation
3) If the user age is above or equals the actual age: Joe is 13 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 12 when profile was set up - which can't be true they have to have a minimum user age of 13. We therefore assume his joining age is 13 . He's been on the platform for 1 year; therefore, his user age is 14 .
4) If the user age is lower than the actual age Joe is 15 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 12 when profile was set up - which can't be true they have to have a minimum user age of 13. We therefore assume his joining age is 13 . He's been on the platform for 1 year; therefore, his user age is 14 . His user age is now lower than his actual age. However, because the research only looks at children whose user age is older than their actual age, this case will be excluded from the user age calculation

## Scenario 3 - Children who entered a DOB at set up which made their social media profile have a user age that is older than their actual age

Length of time on profile (Q3)


Child cannot have put under 13 as their DOB at set up, therefore assume they put age
13.

User age = 13 plus length of time

1) $\quad$ User age $=13$ plus length of time on profile (If the user age is above or equals the actual age)
2) User age = 13 plus length of time on profile (If the user age is lower than the actual age) Excluded from calculation

Example

Joe is 9 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 11 when profile was set up which can't be true they have to have a minimum user age of 13 . We therefore assume his joining age is 13 .
He's been on the platform for 2 years; therefore, his user age is 15 .

1) If the user age is above or equals the actual age: Joe is 15 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 12 when profile was set
up - which can't be true they have to have a
minimum user age of 13 . We therefore
assume his joining age is 13
seen on the platform for 4 years; therefore, his user age is 17
2) If the user age is lower than the actual age Joe is 15 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 12 when profile was set up which can't be true they have to have a minimum user age of 13 . We therefore assume his joining age is 13 .
He's been on the platform for 1 year, therefore, his user age is 14
However, his user age now is lower than his ctual age, because the research only looks at children whose user age is older than their actual age, this case will be excluded from the user age calculation

## Scenario 3 - Children who entered a DOB at set up which made their social media profile have a user age that is older than their actual age

Length of time on profile (Q3)


DOB at set up (Q8a)


Actual age of child
(P3)


Assumption

Child cannot have put under 13 as their DOB at set up, therefore assume they put age 13. Assume length of time
on profile as 6 years. Child cannot have put under 13 as their DOB at set up, therefore assume they put age 13
Assume length of time
on profile as 6 years.


User age = at least 13

Child cannot have put under 13 as their DOB at
set up, therefore assume they put age 13

1) User age = at least 13 (If the user age is above or equals the actual age)
2) User age = at least 13 (If the user age is lower than the

USER AGE

User age = 13
plus length of
time on profile


Joe is 17 , he said he entered a date of birth which
made him 11 when profile was set up - which can't made him 11 when profile was set up - which can't
be true they have to have a minimum user age of 13 . We therefore assume his joining age is 13
He's been on the platform for 6 years; therefore, his user age is 19 , which equates to $18+$.

Example


#### Abstract

Joe is 9 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 11 when profile was set up - which can't


 be true they have to have a minimum user age of 13 . We therefore assume his joining age is 13 .user age is 19 , which equates to $18+$ actual age)
Excluded from calculation
made him 11 when profile was set up - which can't be true they have to have a minimum user age of 13 .

We therefore assume his joining age is 13 .
He doesn't know/can't remember how long he has
had the profile, therefore we assume minimum of 0 years, so his user age is at least 13 .

1) If the user age is above or equals the actual age: Joe is 13 , profile was set up - which can't be true they have to have a minimum user age of 13. He doesn't know/ can't remember minimum of 0 years. We therefore assume his joining age is

2) If the user age is lower than the actual age.

Joe is 15 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him
11 when profile was set up - which can't be true they have to have a minimum user age of 13 . We therefore assume his joining age is 13.
He does
profile, therefore we cans asume minimer how long he has tad the defle, therefore we assume minimum of 0 years, so his user
age is at least ever, his use age is at least is lis. because the research only looks at children whose user age older than their actual age, this case will be excluded from the user age calculation

Scenario 3-Children who entered a DOB at set up which made their social
media profile have a user age that is older than their actual age

Length of time on profile (Q3)


DOB at set up (Q8a)


Actual age of child
(P3)


Assume length of time on profile as 0 years

USER AGE

User age = age at set up plus length of time on profile


## 1) User age = age at set up plus <br> length of time on profile (If the user age is above or equals the actual age)

2) User age = age at set up plus length of time on profile (If the user age is lower than the actual age) Excluded from calculation
oe is 9 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 14 when profile was set up. He's been on the platform for 0 years; therefore, his user age is at least 14.

Example

1) If the user age is above or equals the actual age: Joe is 15 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 16 when profile was set up. He's been on the platform for 0 years; therefore, his user age is at least 16 .
2) If the user age is lower than the actual age: Joe is 15 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 14 when profile was set up. He's been on the platform for 0 years; therefore, his user age is at least 14
However, his user age now is lower than his real age, because the research only looks at children whose user age is older than their actual age, this case will be excluded from the user age calculation

Scenario 3 - Children who entered a DOB at set up which made their social
media profile have a user age that is older than their actual age
Length of time on
profile (Q3)

DOB at set up (Q8a)
Actual age of child
(P3)

Scenario 3 (13)


Assume length of time on profile as 1 year

User age = age at set up plus length of time on profile


1) User age = age at set up plus length of time on profile (If the user age is above or equals the actual age)
2) User age = age at set up plus length of time on profile (If the user age is lower than the actual age) Excluded from calculation

Joe is 9 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 14 when profile was set up. He's been on the platform for 1 year; therefore, his user age is 15 .

Example

1) If the user age is above or equals the actual age: Joe is 15 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 16 when profile was set up. He's been on the platform for 1 year; therefore, his user age is at least 17
2) If the user age is lower than the actual age: Joe is 15 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 13 when profile was set up. He's been on the platform for 1 year; therefore, his user age is at least 14
However, his user age now is lower than his real age, because the research only looks at children whose user age is older than their actual age, this case will be excluded from the user age calculation

## Scenario 3 - Children who entered a DOB at set up which made their social media profile have a user age that is older than their actual age



Scenario 3 - Children who entered a DOB at set up which made their social media profile have a user age that is older than their actual age


Scenario 3 - Children who entered a DOB at set up which made their social
media profile have a user age that is older than their actual age
Length of time on
profile (Q3)


DOB at set up (Q8a)


Actual age of child
(P3)

Scenario 3 (23)

Scenario 3 (24)


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Scenario 3 (25)
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Joe is 15 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 18 when profile was set up. He's been on the platform for 1 year; therefore, his user age is 19 which equates to $18+$.
Joe is 9 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 18 when profile was set up. He's been on the platform for 1 year; therefore, his user age is 19 which equates to $18+$.
oe is 9 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 18 when profile was set up. He's been on the platform for 2 years; therefore, his user age is 20 which equates to $18+$.

Joe is 15 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 18 when profile was set up. He's been on the platform for 2 years; therefore, his user age is 20 , which equates to $18+$.

Scenario 3 - Children who entered a DOB at set up which made their social media profile have a user age that is older than their actual age

Length of time on
profile (Q3)



DOB at set up (Q8a)


Assume length of time on profile as 6 years, assume DOB at set up as 18 years

USER AGE


Joe is 9 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 18 when profile was set up. He's been on the platform for 6 years; therefore, his user age is 24 , which equates to $18+$

Joe is 15 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 18 when profile was set up. He's been on the platform for 6 years; therefore, his user age is 24 , which equates to $18+$.

Joe is 9 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 18 when profile was set up. We don't know how long he has been on the platform, so we assume user age is at least 18.

Joe is 15 , he said he entered a date of birth which made him 18 when profile was set up. We don't know how long he has been on the platform, so we assume user age is at least 18 .

## Scenario 4 - Children who did not know what DOB they entered at set up



## Scenario 4 - Children who did not know what DOB they entered at set up

Scenario 4 (5)

## Length of time on

profile (Q3)


Actual age of child
(P3)


More than 5 years

More than 5 years


DOB at set up (Q8a)



Assumption

Assume they put DOB as 13 at set up.


> Assume they put DOB as 13 at set up. Assume length of time on profile as 6 years

> Assume they put DOB as 13 at set up. Assume length of time on profile as 6 years

1) User age = 13 (assume minimum
2) plus length of time on profile
3) User age = actual age/age at set up plus length of time on profile
USER AGE

User age =
13 (assume minimum 13) plus length of time on profile

Joe is 9 , he doesn't remember what DOB he used at set up, but we assume at least 13. He's been on the platform for 3 years; therefore, his user age is at least 16.

> 1) If calculation makes child under 13 at set up e.g. Joe is 15 , he doesn't remember what DOB he used at set up.
> He's been on the platform for 4 years; therefore, he would have been 11 when he signed up, so would have had to enter DOB as 13. Add length of time to this (13+4) which meant he had a user age of 17 .
> 2) If calculation makes child over 13 at set up e.g. Joe is 15 , he doesn't remember what DOB he used at set up. ${ }^{\text {. }}$.'s been on the platform for 2 years; therefore, he would have been 13 when he signed up. Add length of time to this (13+2) which meant he had a user age of 15 (same as actual age).

Joe is 9 , he doesn't remember what DOB
he used at set up, so we assume 13 . He's he used at set up, so we assume 13. He's been on the platform for 6 years; therefore, his user age is 19 , which equates to $18+$.
Example


Joe is 15 , he doesn't remember what DOB he used at set up, so we assume 13 . He's been on the platform for 6 years;

Therefore, his user age is 19 , which equates to $18+$

Scenario 4 - Children who did not know what DOB they entered at set up


## Scenario 4 - Children who did not know what DOB they entered at set up

## Length of time on

 profile (Q3)

DOB at set up (Q8)


Actual age of child
(P3)

Scenario 4 (11)


USER AGE


Child cannot have put under 13 as their DOB at set up. Therefore, assume they put age 13. Assume length of time on profile as 1 vear.


Assumption

Child cannot have put under 13 as their DOB at set up. Therefore, assume they put age 13. Assume length of time on profile as 0 years.


Example

Joe is 9 , he doesn't remember what DOB he used at set up. He's been on the platform for 0 years, therefore, assuming he had to enter 13 as DOB, his user age is at least 13 .

Joe is 15 , he doesn't remember what DOB he used at set up, so we assume it matches his actual age (as he is over 13). He's been on the platform for 0 years; therefore, we assume his user age is 15 .

Joe is 9 , he doesn't remember what DOB he used at set up. He's been on the platform for 1 year, therefore, assuming he had to enter 13 as DOB, his user age is at least 14 .

[^1]
## Scenario 4 - Children who did not know what DOB they entered at set up



DOB at set up (Q8)


Don't remember
Q8 so not asked
Q8a

Actual age of child
(P3)


Assume they put DOB as 13 at set up.


Assumption


Assume they put DOB as 13 at set up. Assume length of time on profile as 6 years


USER AGE

User age =
13 (assume minimum 13) plus length of time on profile

Example

Joe is 9 , he doesn't remember what DOB he used at set up, but we assume at least 13. He's been on the platform for 3 years; therefore, his user age is at least 16.

1) User age = 13 (assume minimum
2) plus length of time on profile
3) User age = actual age/age at set up plus length of time on profile

| User age $=$ |
| :---: |
| 13 (assume |
| minimum for sign |
| up) plus length of |
| time on profile |

> Joe is 9 , he doesn't remember what DOB he used at set up, so we assume 13 . He's been on the platform for 6 years; therefore, his user age is 19 , which equates to $18+$.

Joe is 15 , he doesn't remember what DOB he used at set up, so we assume 13 . He's been on the platform for 6 years;

Therefore, his user age is 19 which equates to $18+$

Scenario 4 - Children who did not know what DOB they entered at set up

Length of time on
profile (Q3)


DOB at set up (Q8)


Actual age of child (P3)


USER AGE

Excluded as we don't have enough information for user
age calculation

Excluded as we don't have enough information for user age calculation

Example


## Scenario 5 - Children who changed their DOB* since setting it up to their actual age <br> DOB once changed <br> Example



Joe is 9 , he changed the DOB on his profile to his actual age (which we understand may not be possible due to minimum age requirements). As the profile cannot be under 13, we assumed user age is 13 .

Joe is 15 , he changed the DOB on his profile to his actual age. Therefore, his user age is now 15.

## Scenario 6 - Children who changed their DOB* since setting it up to another age that is not their actual age

DOB once changed

## Scenario 6 (1)



## Example



1) User age $=13$ (If the user age is above or equals the actual age)
2) User age = 13 (If the user age is lower than the actual age) Excluded from calculation
Assume $D O B$ now is 13 as they can't be under 13

User age = 13
Joe is 9 , he changed the DOB on his profile to 11 . As the profile cannot be under 13, we assumed user age is now 13.

1) If the user age is above or equals the actual age: Joe is 13, he changed the DOB on his profile to 11 . As the profile cannot be under 13, we assumed user age is now 13.
2) If the user age is lower than the actual age: Joe is 14 , he changed the DOB on his profile to 11 . As the profile cannot be under 13, we assumed user age is now 13 .

But his user age now is lower than his actual age, because the research only looks at children whose user age is older than their actual age, this case will be excluded from the user age calculation

## Scenario 6 - Children who changed their DOB* since setting it up to another age that is not their actual age

Changed DOB so profile age is $13-$ 17 (Q7)


1) User age = new age after DOB change
2) User age = new age after DOB is lower than the actual age
Excluded from calculation

Changed DOB so profile age is $18+$
(Q7)
Actual age of child


User age = new age after DOB change
User age = new
age after DOB
change

Joe is 9 , he changed the DOB on his profile to be 14 . Now his

1) If the user age is above or equals the actual age: Joe is 15 , he changed the DOB on his profile to be 16 . Now his user age is 16 .
2) If the user age is lower than the actual age:

Joe is 15 , he changed the $D O B$ on his profile to be 14 . Now his user age is 14.
However, his user age now is lower than his actual age, because the research only looks at children whose user age is older than their actual age, this case will be excluded from the user age calculation
user age is 14 .
Example

$$
\text { user age is } 14 .
$$

$$
2
$$

Joe is 9 , he changed the DOB on his profile to be 18. Now his user age is 18.

## Scenario 6 - Children who changed their DOB* since setting it up to another age that is not their actual age

Scenario 6 (6)

Scenario 6 (7)

Scenario 6 (8)

DOB once changed
Changed DOB so
profile age is $18+$
(Q7)


USER AGE
 age after DOB change

Example

Joe is 15 , he changed the DOB on his profile to be 18 . Now his user age is 18.

Scenario 7-Children who changed their DOB* since setting it up to another age that is not their actual age but does not remember or does not want to say what age it was changed to

Scenario 7 (1)

Scenario 7 (2)

| Changed DOB - |
| :---: |
| Don't |
| remember/Prefer |
| not to say (Q6) |



| Excluded as we |
| :---: |
| don't have enough |
| information for user |
| age calculation |


*Length of time not required for user age calculation for those that have changed their DOB


[^0]:    Joe is 9 , he said he entered his actual date of birth when profile was set up - which can't be true as they have to have a minimum user age of 13 . We therefore assume his joining age is

    He's been on the platform for 1 yea e's been on the platform for 1 y
    therefore, his user age is 14 .

[^1]:    1) If calculation makes child under 13 at set up e.g. Joe is 13 , he doesn't remember what DOB used at set up.
    He's been on the platform for 1 year therefore, he would have been 12 when he signed up, so would have had to enter DOB a 13. Add length of time to this $(13+1)$ which meant he has a user age of 14 .
    2) If calculation makes child over 13 at set up e.g. Joe is 15 , he doesn't remember what DOB he used at set up. He's been on the platform for 1 year; therefore, he would have been 1 when he signed up. Add length of time to this ( $14+1$ ) which meant he had a user age of 15 (same as actual age)
