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U-turn on Wikipedia 'child porn' ban

By [metrowebukmetro](#) Tuesday 9 Dec 2008 9:35 pm

A ban on a 'pornographic' image on the cover of a 1970s rock album which appeared on the Wikipedia website was last night overturned.

The Scorpions' Virgin Killer album, which features a picture of a naked young girl, was 'potentially in breach of the Protection of Children Act 1978' but should be allowed to feature on the website, the Internet Watch Foundation ruled.



It said it had taken into account the context of the image on Wikipedia and the length time it had been in the public domain.

'TWF's overriding objective is to minimise the availability of indecent images of children on the internet, however, on this occasion our efforts have had the opposite effect,' it said in a statement.

'We regret the unintended consequences for Wikipedia and its users.'

A Wikipedia entry on the album was barred from access after the IWF ruled it potentially indecent last week.

The entire webpage was removed as the image was rated a one out of a rating system between one to five, with five being the highest.

Prior to the ruling, Wikimedia Foundation head Sue Gardner said: 'The IWF didn't just block the image; it blocked access to the article itself, which discusses the image in a neutral, encyclopedic fashion.'

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