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The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) will inspect the way in which the social media platform uses the data of 13 to 17-year-olds to recommend further content to them.John Edwards, the Information Commissioner, said it would look at whether TikTok's data collection practices could lead to children experiencing harms, such as data being leaked or spending "more time than is healthy" on the platform.

TikTok told its recommender systems operated under "strict and comprehensive measures that protect the privacy and safety of teens".It added that the platform also has "robust restrictions on the content allowed in teens' feeds".Mr Edwards said TikTok's algorithm "feeds" on personal data gleaned from user profiles, preferences, links clicked and how long they spend watching a particular video - making it subject to UK rules.

In addition to the probe into TikTok, the ICO is also checking the age verification processes of Reddit and Imgur, an image-sharing platform.The investigation will look into whether the companies are complying with both the UK's data protection laws, and the children's code.The code is set to design principles for online platforms aimed at protecting children in the UK. Platforms which collect UK children's user data must minimise the amount they gather and take extra care when processing it.Reddit and Imgur probesThe ICO's investigations into Reddit and Imgur will focus on how the platforms check the ages of their users and their enforcement of age checks.

Ofcom said in October Reddit had overtaken X as the UK's fifth most popular platform.Imgur, meanwhile, says on I guess a baseline would be: self-declaration is probably not going to cut it if there is content on the site or services on the site that are unsuitable for children under the age of 13."A Reddit spokesperson told t that 95% of their users are adults but that they "have plans to roll out changes this year that address updates to UK regulations around age assurance.