

Why Are Dodgy Boxes So Popular?

Introduction: Many people use illegal streaming services, often called dodgy boxes, because they provide free access to TV channels, sports, and movies that would normally require a paid subscription. These devices allow users to bypass subscription fees for services like Sky, Virgin Media, and Netflix. But are they harmless, or do they have wider consequences?



Group Task: Discuss and list reasons why people might choose to use dodgy boxes instead of legal streaming services.

How Many People Use Them?

Although illegal, dodgy boxes remain widespread.

Estimate how many people you think use dodgy boxes in Ireland:

Research the answer:

Where did you source the data from (e.g. what website/author):

Were you surprised by the actual figures? Why or why not?

Do you think this is a credible source of information? Why?

Was there anything else in the article/source of information that you found interesting?

Use research to investigate the likely impact on the following groups from the increased use of illegal streaming services:

Impact on Clubber	
Impact on Society	
Impact on legitimate Sky/Clubber consumers	
Impact on the government	





Ethical Thinking - Does using a dodgy box feel like stealing?

Unlike shoplifting or stealing goods, many people don't see dodgy boxes as "robbing." Scan the QR code to read the article and discuss it in your groups before answering

Why do you think people justify using illegal streaming services?

If it was more widely enforced as a crime, do you think fewer people would use them?

Is your group in favour of making the use of dodgy boxes a crime? Why?

Research Task

Visit the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) website at www.ccpc.ie and research consumer rights on digital content and services.

What protections do paying customers have for streaming services like Netflix or Disney+?

Do these consumer rights apply to dodgy boxes? Why or why not?

Creative Task: Consumer Awareness Poster

Create an awareness poster or social media post around Consumer Rights for Digital Content to help people understand their rights when paying for streaming services.

Your poster should include:

- Key rights of legal streaming service customers.
- Why consumer protections don't apply to illegal dodgy boxes.
- Advice on what to do if a streaming service doesn't deliver what was promised.

Final Reflection

What is the most important lesson you learned from this activity?

Has your opinion on illegal streaming changed? Why or why not?