

Research Briefing
Number 9243
John Woodhouse and Maria
Lalic
3 March 2022

Reaction to the draft Online Safety Bill: A reading list

1

Background

This reading list collates a selection of media coverage, stakeholder responses and other material relevant to the [draft Online Safety Bill](#).

The draft Bill, announced in the 2021 Queen's Speech, was published on 12 May 2021. It sets out Government plans to impose duties on content-sharing platforms and search services to keep users safe.

The Library briefing, [Regulating online harms](#), provides policy background.

2 Select committee publications

2.1 Joint Committee on the draft Bill

[Draft Online Safety Bill](#), Report of session 2021-22, 14 December 2021, HL Paper 129/HC 609

2.2 House of Commons Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee

[The Draft Online Safety Bill and the legal but harmful debate](#), 24 January 2022, HC 1039 2021-22

2.3 House of Commons Petitions Committee

[Tackling Online Abuse](#), 1 February 2022, HC 766 2021-22

2.4 House of Lords Communications and Digital Committee

[Digital regulation: joined-up and accountable](#), 13 December 2021, HL Paper 126 2021-22

[Free for all? Freedom of expression in the digital age](#), 22 July 2021, HL Paper 54 2021-22

[Government response to "Free for all? Freedom of expression in the digital age"](#), 1 November 2021

2.5 House of Commons Treasury Committee

[Economic Crime](#), 26 January 2022, HC 145 2021-22. Chapter 3 looks at online economic crime and the draft Bill.

3 Stakeholder and media comment

3.1 Organisations, charities, NGOs

Big Brother Watch, [Online Safety Bill: what the Government must do next](#), 10 February 2022 [accessed 22 February 2022]

Barnardos, [Pornography sites to required by law to verify the age of users](#), 8 February 2022 [accessed 22 February 2022]

[Government accepts Law Commission's recommendations to reform the communications offences](#), Law Commission News Release [online], 7 February 2022 (accessed 22 February 2022)

5Rights, [5Rights responds to the Joint Committee's report on the Online Safety Bill](#), January 2022 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Demos, [The success of the Online Safety Bill will depend on the government's ability to admit it could go wrong](#), 17 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Open Rights Group, [Joint Committee advice cannot fix flawed Online Safety Bill](#), 17 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Refuge, [Refuge responds to the report of the Joint Committee on the Draft Online Safety Bill](#), 15 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Carnegie UK Trust, [Carnegie UK responds to the report of the Joint Committee on the Draft Online Safety Bill](#), 14 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Carnegie UK Trust, [Coalition of organisations, including Carnegie UK, welcomes Joint Committee recommendation to include paid-for digital ads in Online Safety Bill](#), 14 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

[Samaritans responds to recommendations from Joint Committee on the Draft Online Safety Bill](#), Samaritans News [online], 14 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Internet Watch Foundation, [Statement on the Joint Committee report on the Government's draft Online Safety Bill](#) [online], 14 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Barnardo's, [Joint Committee on the draft Online Safety Bill - Barnardo's response](#), 14 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Chartered Institute for IT, [The Online Safety Bill – Policy briefing](#), 14 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Adam Smith Institute, [Response to Joint Committee on Draft Online Safety Bill report: still gigantic threat to freedom of speech, privacy and innovation](#), 14 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

SWGfL, [Joint Committee Reports on Draft Online Safety Bill](#), 14 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Ofcom, [How we're preparing to regulate online safety](#), 13 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Open Rights Group, [Online Safety Bill: Sweeping Ministerial Powers](#), 13 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Open Rights Group, [What's the Harm in the Online Safety Bill?](#), 12 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Schillings, [Will the online safety bill actually make life online safer?](#), 9 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

NSPCC, [Child abuse image crimes in the UK have risen - we urgently need a stronger Online Safety Bill](#), 3 December 2021 [accessed 22 February 2022]

Carnegie UK Trust, [The Online Safety Bill – reducing complexity, establishing a foundation duty](#), 10 November 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Carnegie UK Trust, [Simplifying and strengthening the draft Online Safety Bill – amendments](#), 10 November 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Carnegie UK Trust, [Revised Online Safety Bill](#), November 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Carnegie UK Trust, [Secretary of State's powers and the draft Online Safety Bill](#), 14 September 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

End Violence Against Women, [Experts call for online VAWG to be addressed in the Online Safety Bill](#), September 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Demos, [A room of one's own: when is an internet user safe in a private space online?](#), September 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Hope Not Hate, [Free Speech for All: Why Legal but Harmful Content Should Continue to Be Included in the Online Safety Bill](#), August 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Article 19, [Draft Online Safety Bill poses serious risk to free expression](#), 26 July 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Chatham House, [New UK bill can fight fresh wave of online racist abuse](#), 21 July 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Open Rights Group, [Encryption in The Online Safety Bill](#), 20 July 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Open Rights Group, [Access Denied: Service Blocking in The Online Safety Bill](#), 6 July 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Index on Censorship, [Right to type: how the "duty of care" model lacks evidence and will damage free speech](#), 23 June 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Carnegie UK Trust, [The Draft Online Safety Bill: initial analysis](#), 15 June 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Big Brother Watch, [Big Brother Watch Signs Open Letter to MPs To Protect End-To-End Encryption](#), 14 June 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Hope Not Hate, [Response To The Draft Online Safety Bill](#), 7 June 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Kretschmer A et al, [The emergence of platform regulation in the UK: an empirical-legal study](#), CREATE working paper, June 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Committee to Protect Journalists, [UK online safety bill raises censorship concerns and questions on future of encryption](#), 25 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Internet Watch Foundation, [IWF 'increasingly concerned about impact of pornography on the lives of young children' as age verification measures not included in new Bill](#), 19 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Big Brother Watch, [The UK risks becoming a world leader in online censorship](#), 14 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Catch 22, [Catch22 responds to the Draft Online Safety Bill](#), 13 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Internet Watch Foundation, [Call for renewed funding for UK Safer Internet Centre as new online safety legislation published](#), 13 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Ofcom, [Ofcom to gain new online safety powers as Government bill published today](#), 13 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Internet Society, [UK Online Public Safety Bill is trying to legislate the impossible – a safe Internet without strong encryption](#), 12 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Open Rights Group, [Government's Kafkaesque Plans for Regulating Online Speech Is Condemned](#), 12 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Barnardo's, [Barnardo's responds to publication of draft Online Safety Bill](#), 12 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Samaritans, [Samaritans responds to the draft Online Safety Bill](#), 12 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Centre for Policy Studies, [Parliament must determine what is and isn't permitted, not Ofcom or media platforms](#), 12 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Personal Investment Management & Financial Advice Association, [PIMFA welcomes publication of Online Safety Bill but urges Government to do more to tackle clone investment fraud and fake online adverts](#), 12 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Internet Watch Foundation, [Online Safety Bill Briefing](#), May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

UK Finance, [UK Finance responds to the Government's draft Online Safety Bill](#), 12 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

techUK, [The Online Safety Bill, what is in it and what does it mean for techUK members](#), 12 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Internet Society UK, [UK Online Public Safety Bill is trying to legislate the impossible – a safe Internet without strong encryption](#), 11 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

NSPCC, [End-To-End Encryption: Understanding the impacts for child safety online](#), April 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Linklaters, [Online harms: a comparative analysis](#), April 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

5Rights Foundation, [Ambitions for the Online Safety Bill](#), April 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

NSPCC, [Delivering a duty of care: an assessment of the Government's proposals against the NSPCC's six tests for the Online Safety Bill](#), March 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

NSPCC, [Private messaging and the rollout of end-to-end encryption: the implications for child protection](#), January 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

3.2 Media and blogs

Smith G, [Harm Version 4.0 – the Online Safety Bill in metamorphosis](#), Cyberleagle Blog, 19 February 2022 (accessed 22 February 2022)

[“Plans for age checks on porn sites ‘a privacy minefield’, campaigners warn”](#), Guardian [online], 13 February 2022 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Higson-Bliss L, [The ‘new’ offences added to the online safety bill are not really new – and could continue to fail victims of online abuse](#), The Conversation [online], 11 February 2022 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Carter O, [Why age verification is another flawed attempt to regulate online pornography in the UK](#), The Conversation [online], 10 February 2022 (accessed 22 February 2022)

[Porn sites will be legally required to verify users' age](#), BBC News [online], 8 February 2022 (accessed 22 February 2022)

[Tech giants targeted in harmful content crackdown](#), BBC News [online], 6 February 2022 (accessed 22 February 2022)

[Sending threatening posts among offences in revised online safety bill](#), Guardian [online], 4 February 2022 [accessed 22 February 2022]

McDonald J, [Online safety – 2022 begins with regulatory developments in both the UK and the EU](#), Charles Russell Speechlys [online], 24 January 2022 (accessed 22 February 2022)

[Online Safety Bill fails to protect journalists' freedom of speech, MPs and editors warn](#), Press Gazette [online], 24 January 2022 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Rendle A. and Zhu X, [All change for the Online Safety Bill?](#), Taylor Wessing [online], 18 January 2022 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Todd E. and Moss F, [Online Harms: A comparison of the online safety bill and digital services act as at 1 January 2022](#), Reed Smith [online], 17 January 2022 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Pinto T. and Popple L, [Online safety: where are we now and what new offences are being proposed?](#), Taylor Wessing [online], 11 January 2022 (accessed 22 February 2022)

[UK parliament pushes back on the online safety bill](#), Guardian [online], 15 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

[Online Safety Bill: New offences and tighter rules](#), BBC News [online], 14 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

[Holding big tech to account](#), Guardian Editorial [online], 14 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Young T, [The good and bad news about the Online Safety Bill](#), Spectator [online], 14 December 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Smith G, [The draft Online Safety Bill concretised](#), Cyberleagle Blog, 3 November 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Smith G, [The draft Online Safety Bill: systemic or content-focused?](#), Cyberleagle Blog, 1 November 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Kinsella S, [Online Anonymity: Balancing Freedoms](#), Inform's Blog, 29 October 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Dyer H.T, [Online abuse: banning anonymous social media accounts is not the answer](#), The Conversation [online], 20 October 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

[Can Online Safety Bill tackle social media abuse of MPs?](#), BBC News [online], 20 October 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Martin D, [The Online Safety Bill: who invited the thought police?](#), JMW, 12 October 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Edwards L, [Can the Online Safety Bill be more than a toothless tiger \(or a Facebook flop\)?](#), LSE Blog, 11 October 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Jennings R, [The Online Safety Bill Part 2: do these proposals go too far, leading to overzealous policing?](#), UK Human Rights Blog, 11 September 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Jennings R, [Regulating content on user-to user and search service providers](#), UK Human Rights Blog, 2 August 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Zhu X, [Online Safety Bill – illegal and harmful content and safety duties](#), Taylor Wessing [online], 30 July 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Owen M, [Risk assessments under the Online Safety Bill](#), Taylor Wessing [online], 30 July 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Heywood D, [Regulating and enforcing the Online Safety Bill – Ofcom's powers and duties](#), Taylor Wessing [online], 30 July 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Harbinja E, [UK's Online Safety Bill: Not That Safe, After All?](#), Lawfare, 8 July 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Petley J, [Online Safety and the Press: A Thoroughly Unsafe Bill, Part 3](#), Inform's Blog, 8 July 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Petley J, [Online Safety and the Press: A Thoroughly Unsafe Bill, Part 2](#), Inform's Blog, 7 July 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Petley J, [Online Safety and the Press: A Thoroughly Unsafe Bill, Part 1](#), Inform's Blog, 6 July 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Livingstone S, [Why is media literacy prominent in the UK's draft Online Safety Bill?](#), LSE Blog, 7 July 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

TechCrunch, [UK tells messaging apps not to use e2e encryption for kids' accounts](#) [online], 30 June 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Smith G, [On the trail of the Person of Ordinary Sensibilities](#), Cyberleagle Blog, 28 June 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Kirkconnell-Kawana L, [Online Safety Bill: Five thoughts on its impact on journalism](#), LSE Blog, 3 June 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Burns H, [Why the online safety bill threatens our civil liberties](#), politics.co.uk [online], 26 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Wong, B and Ward O, [Online Safety Bill: everything you need to know](#), BurgessSalmon [online], 24 May 2021 (accessed 3 March 2022)

Blow T. et al, [UK's Online Safety Bill published](#), CMS Law-Now, 18 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Smith G, [Harm Version 3.0: the draft Online Safety Bill](#), Cyberleagle Blog, 16 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

[Online safety bill 'will fail to protect millions from cloned websites and ad scams'](#), Guardian [online], 15 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Brady H et al, [New era for UK online regulation: long-awaited UK online safety bill published](#), Herbert Smith Freehills Blog, 14 May 2021 (accessed 22 February 2022)

Disclaimer

The Commons Library does not intend the information in our research publications and briefings to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual. We have published it to support the work of MPs. You should not rely upon it as legal or professional advice, or as a substitute for it. We do not accept any liability whatsoever for any errors, omissions or misstatements contained herein. You should consult a suitably qualified professional if you require specific advice or information. Read our briefing [‘Legal help: where to go and how to pay’](#) for further information about sources of legal advice and help. This information is provided subject to the conditions of the Open Parliament Licence.

Feedback

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publicly available briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email papers@parliament.uk. Please note that authors are not always able to engage in discussions with members of the public who express opinions about the content of our research, although we will carefully consider and correct any factual errors.

You can read our feedback and complaints policy and our editorial policy at commonslibrary.parliament.uk. If you have general questions about the work of the House of Commons email hcenquiries@parliament.uk.

The House of Commons Library is a research and information service based in the UK Parliament. Our impartial analysis, statistical research and resources help MPs and their staff scrutinise legislation, develop policy, and support constituents.

Our published material is available to everyone on commonslibrary.parliament.uk.

Get our latest research delivered straight to your inbox. Subscribe at commonslibrary.parliament.uk/subscribe or scan the code below:



 commonslibrary.parliament.uk

 [@commonslibrary](https://twitter.com/commonslibrary)