



Church of England's Social Media Community Guidelines QSD on 11 July 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

The Lord Bishop of St Albans to ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Church of England's social media community guidelines, published on 1 July, and what steps they are taking to promote positive social media behaviour.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

Key Information

- Church of England, '[Our Social Media Community Guidelines](#)', 1 July 2019

Guidelines for content posted to national social media accounts run by the Church of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Archbishop of York. The Church of England has also described the guidelines as "a resource for Christians, people of other faiths and people of no faith" regarding activity on social media.

- Church of England, '[Archbishops Launch Church's First Ever Social Media Guidelines and Charter](#)', 1 July 2019

Details of the launch of the Church of England's social media community guidelines, including comments from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, made as part of a live Q&A at Facebook UK's headquarters.

- HM Government, '[Online Harms White Paper](#)', April 2019, CP 57, pp 5–10

Executive summary to the Government's white paper outlining its policy on the regulation of content online.

- Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, '[Code of Practice for Providers of Online Social Media Platforms](#)', 8 April 2019

Guidance for the providers of social media platforms in the UK, published in advance of the new regulatory framework envisaged in the white paper on online harms. It sets out actions the Government believes should be taken by providers to prevent "bullying, insulting, intimidating and humiliating behaviours" on their platforms.

- House of Lords Communications Committee, '[Regulating in a Digital World](#)', 9 March 2019, HL Paper 299 of session 2017–19, pp 3–5; and '[Government Response](#)', 15 May 2019

Summary of the committee's conclusions following its inquiry into the regulation of digital media and the Government's response to its recommendations.

- House of Lords Library, [Regulating the Internet: Online Harms White Paper](#), 25 April 2019

Briefing providing a summary of the Government's white paper on online harms. The briefing also explores the wider debate around regulating the internet and the concerns that have been raised about online harms.

- London School of Economics and Political Science, '[From Pokémon Go to Hashtags: How Digital and Social Media is Changing the Church](#)', 20 July 2016

Article on social media use in the Church of England.

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- [Debate on 'Online Harms White Paper'](#), HL Hansard, 30 April 2019, cols 898–944
- [QSD on 'Social Media Services'](#), HL Hansard, 12 November 2018, cols 1762–76
- A selection of written questions from both Houses: [269053](#) (2 July 2019); [HL16477](#) (27 June 2019); [265617](#) (25 June 2019); [HL15909](#) (3 June 2019); [HL15782](#) (29 May 2019); [254757](#) (23 May 2019); [254131](#) (22 May 2019); [254190](#) (22 May 2019); [249891](#) (8 May 2019)

Press Articles and Comment

- Alex Hern, '[Archbishop of Canterbury Warns Against "Alternative Facts" Online](#)', *Guardian*, 1 July 2019
- Harry de Quetteville, '[Can Religion Save Us from The Dark Side Of Social Media?](#)', *Telegraph* (£), 1 July 2019

Further Information

- Church of England, '[Sign Up to Our Digital Charter](#)', accessed 2 July 2019
- [Debate on 'Online Homophobia'](#), HC Hansard, 1 July 2019, cols 419–44WH
- [Debate on 'Online Abuse'](#), HC Hansard, 29 April 2019, cols 1–24WH
- [Debate on 'Regulating in a Digital World \(Communications Committee Report\)'](#), HL Hansard, 12 June 2019, cols 477–512

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