

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Protection of Children Statement
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Dear [REDACTED],

I hope you are well!

I am getting in touch to share with you our Protection of Children Statement, including Codes of Practice and guidance, that we published today.

- You can find an overview of our statement [here](#).
- You can read our [press release](#) for this publication.
- You can find a copy of our statement in full on [our website](#).

We have also produced a '[Codes at a glance](#)' table to help you find the parts of the statement most relevant to you.

Securing a higher level of protection for children than for adults is a key objective of the Online Safety Act. The decisions set out in this statement form the foundations for creating a safer life online for children in the UK. They build on the rules we have already put in place to protect all UK users, including children, from illegal harms, including human trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse, and grooming. They also complement the rules that prevent children from encountering pornography online.

Our decisions reflect what we know from research and evidence about risks to children. Our Children's Register of Risks brings together over 550 individual sources of evidence, including new sources suggested by stakeholders in their responses to our consultation. Our researchers heard from over 27,000 children and 13,000 parents. We have also listened carefully to what children have told us through in-depth engagement with a small group of children from around the UK. These perspectives have directly informed the Codes measures and guidance, alongside feedback we received from industry, civil society, charities and child safety experts.

What will change?

This package of guidance and safety measures is a big step forward in creating a safer life online for children in the UK.

The Codes measures we are confirming – once implemented across industry – will mean that **children in the UK will not normally be able to encounter pornography**, and will be **protected from seeing, and being recommended, other types of content which is**

harmful to them. Where they do see harmful content, children will be able to **complain and have their complaints acted on appropriately** and they will have **more control** over the chats and forums that they join.

What happens next?

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These decisions mark a major milestone – service providers that consider their service is likely to be accessed by children in the UK will need to take action from today. In particular:

Risk assessments: all in-scope services likely to be accessed by children in the UK will be required to complete their children’s risk assessment by 24 July 2025. The steps that providers should take to conduct children’s risk assessments are set out in our Children’s Risk Assessment Guidance.

Codes of Practice: from 25 July, as long as the Codes complete the UK Parliamentary process, service providers will need to take the steps laid down in the Codes or use other effective measures to protect children. By the same date, all services which allow pornography must have highly effective age assurance in place to prevent UK children from accessing it.

In the coming months, we will publish proposals for additional measures to protect users, including children, from illegal harms and from content harmful to children. After we have consulted on these measures, we will publish new versions of the Illegal Content Codes of Practice and Protection of Children Codes of Practice incorporating new measures that we decide to recommend.

By the end of 2025, we will publish our final guidance on wider protections for women and girls following our [consultation in February 2025](#).

We will continue our work to establish additional requirements for categorised services, as set out by the Online Safety Act. Over the summer of 2025, we expect to publish the register of categorised services and issue draft and final transparency notices to them.

Please get in touch if you have any questions regarding the Statement or bring them to our Online Safety event on Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation on 29 May. Colleagues of our Protection of Children and Age Assurance teams will be present to give an update on our policy statements and answer questions on the day.

We hope to speak again soon and look forward to seeing you and the Commissioner on 29 May!

Best wishes,

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