

Reference: 2053428

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

26 August 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about politicians' speech and negative views linked to the Online Safety Act.

We received this request on 28 July 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request and our response

Please answer the below questions as a freedom of information request, if for any reason you need to redact anything or there's any part that you cannot provide, please provide as close to it or what you can.

1) Please can you provide me the reason why a politician's speech in parliament would be blocked under the Online Safety Act, specifically Katie Lambs speech regarding grooming gangs.

We cannot comment on any specific content on a particular platform. Ofcom's role under the Online Safety Act is not to assess individual pieces of content. Instead, Ofcom's job is to make sure platforms are taking effective action to address illegal content, and content harmful to children, through implementing appropriate systems and processes.

Services have duties under the Act to consider how to protect users' rights to freedom of expression within the law while keeping users safe. All services also have duties to enable users to complain if they consider their content has been incorrectly restricted or removed for being illegal content or content harmful to children.

Services have discretion over what content they choose to allow users to access on their platforms. The Act does not require services to prevent users from accessing non-harmful content. The Act only requires services to protect users from illegal content and to protect children from harmful content.

From 24 July 2025, sites and apps which allow harmful content must now protect children from accessing it, as the deadline has passed for tech firms to comply with new rules. This includes protecting children on the most popular sites and apps from encountering the content which is

harmful to children because of how it relates to suicide, self-harm, eating disorders, pornography, dangerous stunts or challenges, misogynistic, violent, hateful or abusive material, and online bullying. Our guidance on age assurance can be accessed through the following links:

- [Quick guide to implementing highly effective age assurance - Ofcom](#)
- [Highly Effective Age Assurance – Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)*](#)
- [Guidance on highly effective age assurance and other Part 5 duties](#)

The Act imposes additional duties on some of the most widely used user-to-user and search services (known as ‘categorised services’). For some categorised services, these additional duties will include duties to protect content of democratic importance. We are proceeding with our work in this area and will consult on our approach to these duties.

2) Why would posts expressing negative views on mass imagination (misspelled – immigration) be flagged?

Please see the response to question 1 above.

3) Please provide me with any guidelines you have produced or received that show what should or should not be flagged under the act.

We have published guidance on illegal content and guidance on content harmful to children, which can be accessed here:

- [Illegal Content Judgements Guidance](#)
- [Guidance on content harmful to children](#)

We have also produced various research and guidance since the implementation of the Online Safety Act, regarding the steps platforms need to take regarding age assurance to protect children from harm, as set out in response to question one [here](#).

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any further queries, then please send them to information.requests@ofcom.org.uk – quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Information Requests

Request an internal review

If you are unhappy with the response you have received to your request for information, or think that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law, you may ask for an internal review. If you do, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will either uphold the original decision, or reverse or modify it.

If you would like to ask us to carry out an internal review, you should get in touch within two months of the date of this letter. There is no statutory deadline for us to complete our internal review, and the time it takes will depend on the complexity of the request. But we will try to complete the review within 20 working days (or no more than 40 working days in exceptional cases) and keep you informed of our progress. Please email the Information Requests team (information.requests@ofcom.org.uk) to request an internal review.

Taking it further

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our internal review, then you have the right to [complain to the Information Commissioner's Office](#).