

The Foundation's area of interest, regarding illegal harm, is encouragement to suicide. We will be engaging with Ofcom on other types of harms through the other consultations, including legal eating disorder and self-harm material, and material which damages people's body image.

Our recommendations centre around Volume 4 and the assumptions that:

- Large services should always be subject to more stringent requirements
- Multi-risk services should always be subject to more stringent requirements

Suicide forums are amongst the most dangerous services available to users online; the most well-known is responsible for [at least 50 deaths](#). Yet they are both small, and do not necessarily have multiple risks (they may, in theory at least, only have one – risk of suicide).

In order to meet the objectives of the Online Safety Act, suicide forums must be regulated from multiple angles (including the provisions for legal content; at present they contain a mixture of legal and illegal content). A key part of this approach must be applying the strictest approach under Chapter 4.

Whether or not the approach that Ofcom is proposing is workable for other forms of illegal content, a different approach is needed for suicide-related material. Ofcom therefore should introduce more nuance in the way services are categorised, with suicide material being considered an exceptional danger that must be addressed irrespective of the size of the service or the other types of dangerous material available on it.