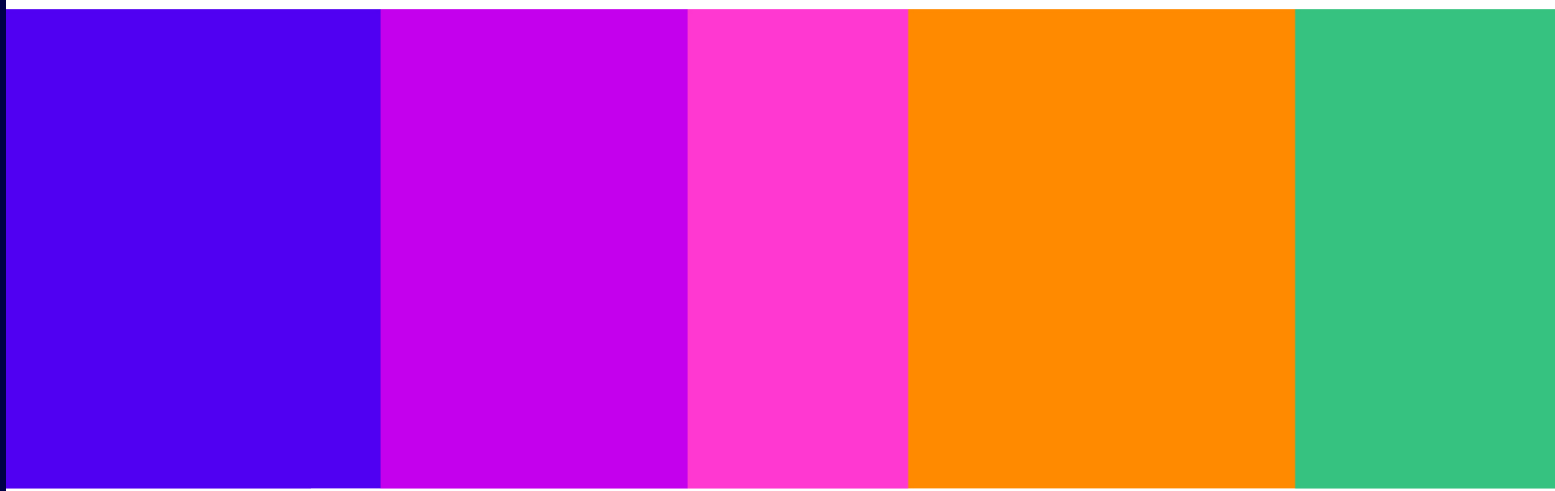


Annex 3: Definitions and abbreviations

Annex

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Definitions and abbreviations

The following definitions are provided to aid understanding of concepts covered by this consultation. For a full list of terms associated with the online safety fees regime, please refer to our fees statement.¹

Term	Meaning
The Act	The Online Safety Act 2023
Charging year	Any period of 12 months beginning with 1 April, except such a period that falls before the initial charging year. See section 90 of the Act.
Fees statement	Online Safety Fees and Penalties statement published on 26 June 2025.
Notification guidance	Guidance on the duty to notify under section 83 of the Act. It includes guidance on the evidence that providers of regulated services can provide to Ofcom to ensure that their notification is in accordance with the Notification Regulations. We have consulted on this guidance and will publish the final version in Q4 2025 before the notification window opens.
Notification Regulations	Regulations made by Ofcom under section 85(2) of the Act, specifying or describing the evidence, documents or other information that providers must supply to Ofcom for the purposes of section 83 of the Act, including the way in which providers must supply the evidence, documents or information. ²
Notification window	The prescribed period during which providers must notify us in certain circumstances in relation to the fees regime. In the initial charging year, the window will be the four-month period starting on the date the QWR Threshold Regulations come into force, which we expect to take place on the 11 th of December. In relation to subsequent charging years, providers will need to notify us at least six months before the beginning of the charging year to which the notification relates.

¹ [Ofcom's Online Safety fees and penalties statement.](#)

² [The Online Safety Act 2023 \(Fees Notification\) Regulations 2025.](#)

Term	Meaning
Qualifying period	The period for which a determination of QWR is to be made for the purposes of ascertaining a providers' liability to fees in respect of a charging year. See chapter 3 of the fees statement and the QWR Regulations. The QWR Regulations provide that the qualifying period in respect of a charging year is the second calendar year preceding the one within which the charging year begins.
QWR	Qualifying worldwide revenue. See chapter 3 of the fees statement.
QWR base	The sum of all QWR from all eligible fee providers. This figure is used in conjunction with Ofcom's regulatory costs to calculate the percentage of provider QWR to be charged for fees. See chapter 7 of the fees statement for more details.
QWR guidance	Guidance for providers on how to calculate their QWR in accordance with the QWR Regulations. We have consulted on this guidance and will publish the final version in Q4 2025 before the notification window opens.
QWR Regulations	Regulations made by Ofcom under Section 85(1) of the Act that set out how QWR is to be determined and the qualifying period to which QWR relates in a charging year. ³
QWR Threshold	The QWR threshold set by the Secretary of State in regulations made under section 86 of the Act. This is the threshold at which the providers of regulated services become liable to pay fees to Ofcom to recover its online safety regulatory costs (unless they are exempt from the fees-related duties).
SoCP	Statement of Charging Principles
Threshold Regulations	Regulations laid by the Secretary of State on 20 November 2025 under section 86 of the Act specifying the QWR Threshold.

³ [The Online Safety Act 2023 \(Qualifying Worldwide Revenue\) Regulations 2025.](#)