



The Online Safety Act 2023

**Thursday 1st February
2pm – 2.30pm**

**Facilitated by
Lou Willis-Keeler & Clair Cooke
Psych-Logical Ltd**



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Specialist behavioural and safeguarding support for individuals and organisations.

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Specialist safeguarding and behavioural consultancy, training and coaching for a variety of organisations.



The Online Safety Act 2023

Legislation is a key milestone in regulating online conduct



Designed to “**make UK safest place in the world to be online**” by enshrining rules into law

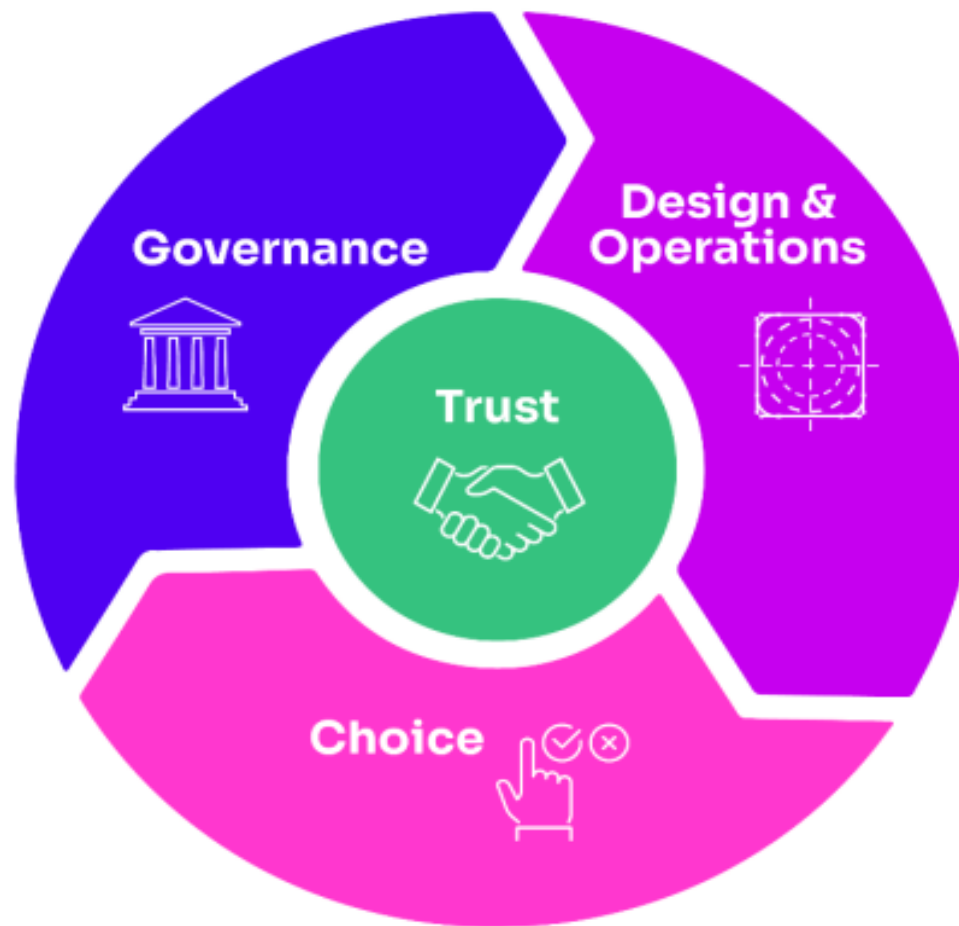
- Children protected from illegal and legal but harmful content; age assurance for platforms
- Adults will have tools to choose what they see
- Regulator is Ofcom with powers to fine





The onus is on companies to decide
what safety measures they need
given the risks they face

The Act will ensure people in the UK are safer online by delivering four outcomes (Figure 1):

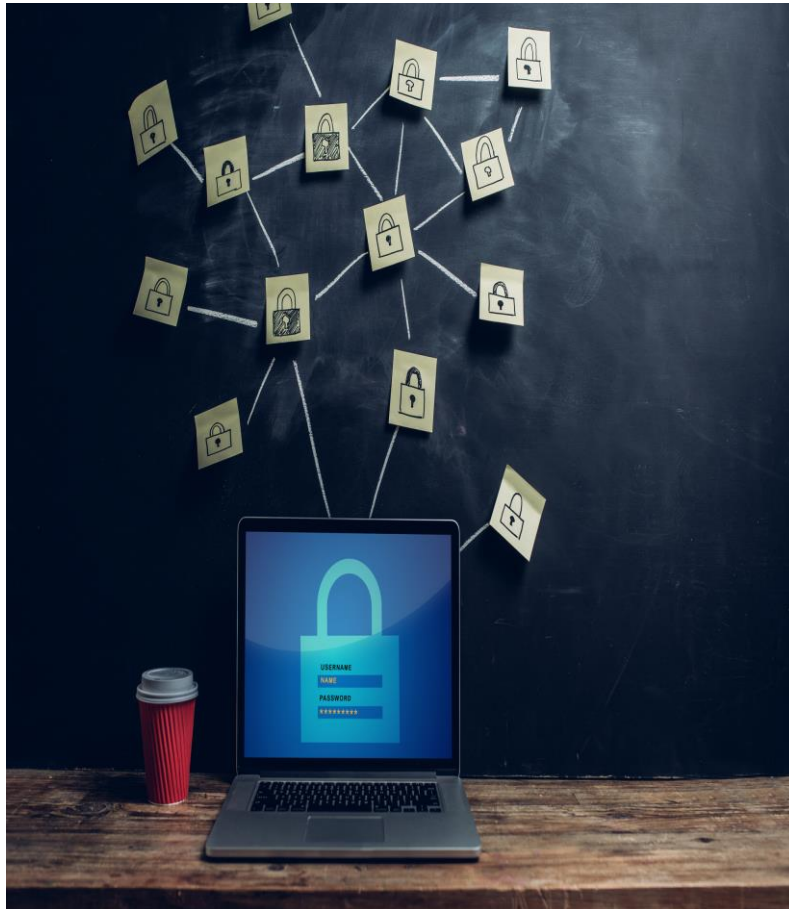


Who does the Act regulate?

- UK and international providers who have a large UK presence
- Not just big tech but companies of all sizes
- Estimated 100,000 online service providers
- User-user services**
- Search services**
- Online service providers** where pornography may be displayed



How does this affect your organisation?



- Be clear whether you are an online service provider and therefore regulated by the Act
- Be aware of new offences ie intimate image abuse and “cyberflashing” see [news article](#)
- Ensure you know the standards tech companies must adhere to
- Update risk assessments
- Check your policies, procedures and training reflects the changes
- Update your communications

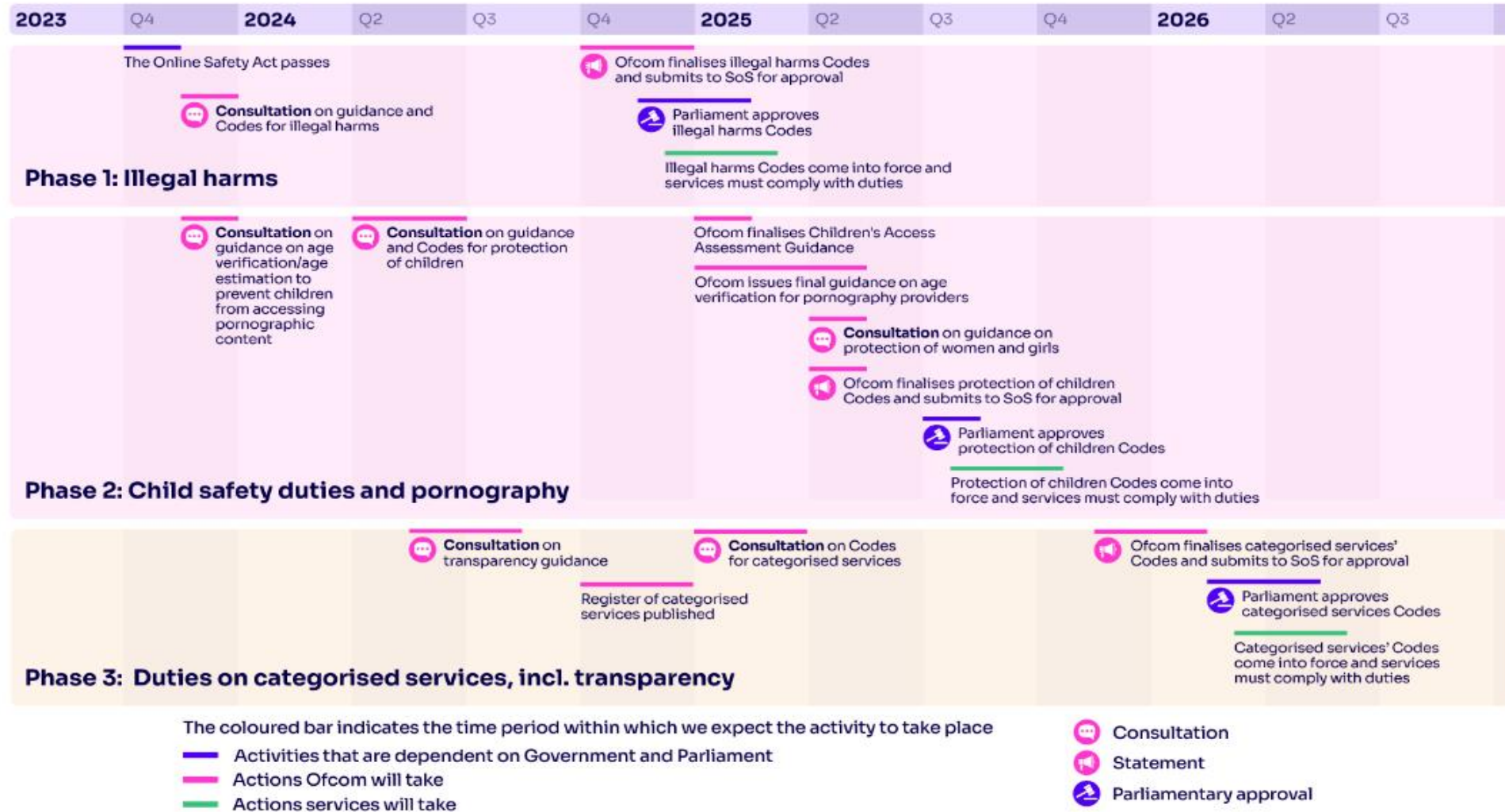


Service providers will need to:

- ✓ carry out risk assessments, to assess the risk of harm to all users from illegal content and (if a service is likely to be accessed by children), to children, from content harmful to them;
- ✓ take effective steps to manage and mitigate the risks identified by these assessments;
- ✓ be clear in their terms of service about how users will be protected;
- ✓ provide means for users easily to report illegal content and content harmful to children; and for them to complain, including when they believe their posts or account have been wrongly blocked or removed; and
- ✓ consider the importance of protecting free expression and privacy, in meeting their new duties.



Figure 2: Our timeline for online safety implementation 2



Digital safeguarding: Trends 2024

AI-created child sexual abuse images 'threaten to overwhelm internet'

Internet Watch Foundation finds 3,000 AI-made abuse images breaking UK law



The IWF said images of real-life abuse victims were being built into AI models, which then produce new depictions of them. Composite: Guardian Design/Getty Images

The Guardian

Elections in UK and US at risk from AI-driven disinformation, say experts

False news stories, images, video and audio could be tailored to audiences and created at scale by next spring.



Taylor Swift deepfake pornography sparks renewed calls for US legislation

Fake but convincing explicit images of pop singer were viewed tens of millions of times on X and Telegram, prompting outcry from US politicians



Taylor Swift pictured earlier this month. Photograph: Ed Zurga/AP

The rapid online spread of deepfake pornographic images of Taylor Swift has renewed calls, including from US politicians, to criminalise the practice, in convincing explicit



Under 10s groomed online 'like never before' as hotline discovers record amount of child sexual abuse

Against the worsening backdrop, the IWF warns moves like Meta's decision to prevent the blocking of child sexual abuse imagery on Facebook's Messenger service are 'utterly incomprehensible'.

17 JANUARY 2024 | NEWS



Checklist To consider (this is not exhaustive)

- Do you provide online services, as set out in the Act – you may need advice on this and ensure you are complying
- Even where you are not providing online services that are regulated, review what platforms and entry points your staff and users may have to online content; identify; risk assess; plan; record:
 - ✓ How do you monitor concerns and risks?
 - ✓ Who leads operationally and strategically on identifying and responding to risks?
 - ✓ Do you use contact; content; conduct as framework?
 - ✓ What training and support do you have in place for staff?
 - ✓ Do your policies and procedures reflect the changes?
 - ✓ Check your reporting processes and information – is it up to date; easy to find; easy to understand; do you know how to report /what action to take?
 - ✓ What do you have in place to protect users?
 - ✓ What measures are in place to restrict or filter access to content?
 - ✓ Culture: what approach do you take? Reassurance; listening; responding; learning; how do you model best practice?
 - ✓ Inclusive and diversity-aware: how do you involve everyone as far as possible?
 - ✓ Do you regularly “stress-test” your policies, procedures and build staff confidence eg consider and explore scenarios, near misses, what if’s, “what keeps me awake”?



Additional Support

Offer a complete package of Safeguarding services from audits, policy development, training and DSO coaching.

Join our mailing list for details of our safeguarding forums, funded resources and news letters.

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Thank you for joining us



Upcoming events

**Free to attend –
Implications of the new Online Safety Act**

Thursday 1 February, 2-2.30pm

Digital safeguarding in apprenticeships

3-hour online Workshop | 06 March

This session will upskill practitioners on identifying and responding to risk whilst delivering sessions online. Going beyond the technological practicalities delegates will look at how to promote safe practices and respond to concerns in a digital environment.

Designated Safeguarding Officer training

Full day Workshop | 14 March

Whether you're new to the Designated Safeguarding Officer role, or are looking for a refresher, this interactive online workshop will cover both virtual and face-to-face settings and will equip officers with the knowledge, skills and confidence to respond to a variety of safeguarding concerns.

Need further support?

Safeguarding Audits

Training needs analysis

Bespoke training

Coaching for DSOs / DSLs

For full event details and to book, visit: www.strategicdevelopmentnetwork.co.uk/sdnevents

Thank you for joining us



Please get in touch with comments or questions or visit our website



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