

THE JOURNEY TO THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

THIS TIMELINE SETS OUT THE KEY POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE EVENTS FROM THE START OF THE UK GOVERNMENT'S POLICY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH TO ROYAL ASSENT FOR THE ONLINE SAFETY BILL.

OCT 2017

DCMS (under SofS Karen Bradley) publishes the [Internet Safety Strategy Green Paper](#)

MAY 2018

DCMS publishes the [Green Paper response](#); Matt Hancock (then SofS) [commits to legislation](#).

APRIL 2019

DCMS (under SofS Jeremy Wright) and HO (under Home Secretary Sajid Javid) jointly publish the [Online Harms White Paper](#) for consultation. The proposals are underpinned by the "duty of care" framework developed by Carnegie UK.

FEB 2020

DCMS (under SofS Nicky Morgan) and HO (under Home Secretary Priti Patel) publish an "[initial response](#)" to the White Paper consultation

DEC 2020

DCMS (under SofS Oliver Dowden) and HO (under Priti Patel) publish the full [response to the Online Harms White Paper](#) alongside [interim codes of practice](#) on terrorism content and CSEA.

MAY 2021

The [Draft Online Safety Bill](#) is published and a [joint committee](#) set up to undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

DEC 2021

The Joint Committee [publish their report](#) on the Draft Online Safety Bill.

MARCH 2022

The Government (under DCMS SofS Nadine Dorries) [publishes its response](#) to the Joint Committee.

MAY 2022

The [Online Safety Bill](#) is introduced into the Commons and enters into a [Public Bill Committee](#)

JULY 2022

The Online Safety Bill completes the [first stage of Commons Report](#) before being pulled in the throes of the Conservative leadership crisis.

DEC 2022

The Government (under DCMS SofS Michelle Donelan) removes the adult safety duties and [recommits the Bill](#) to Committee consideration.

JAN 2023

A revised [Online Safety Bill](#) enters the Lords; a three-month [Committee stage](#) starts in April, with [Report](#) completed in July.

SEPT 2023

The Bill returns to the Commons and proceeds to Royal Assent.

OCT 2023

Royal Assent confirmed: the [Online Safety Act 2023](#) comes into force

