



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Baroness Maggie Jones
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Dame Chi Onwurah
Chair, Science, Innovation
and Technology Committee
commonssitc@parliament.uk

Dear Dame Chi,

ONLINE SAFETY ACT: REPEAL OF THE VIDEO-SHARING PLATFORMS (VSP) REGIME

I am writing to notify you and your committee in advance of the Online Safety Act 2023 (Commencement No.6) Regulations 2025, which I intend to make on 16 July. These regulations will repeal the video-sharing platform (VSP) regulatory regime under Part 4B of the Communications Act 2003 and which will be coming into force on 25 July 2025.

Under the existing VSP regime, Ofcom regulates 18 UK-established video sharing platforms, who must comply with legislation to protect users from harmful videos. The Online Safety Act 2023 (OSA) provides more extensive protections than the VSP regime and therefore allows for the VSP regime to be repealed and those services be wholly subject to the new online safety regime.

In January 2024, these platforms entered a transitional period, meaning that they are currently regulated under both the VSP regime and the OSA. However, to avoid regulatory duplication, VSPs were not required to meet most of the OSA's duties and requirements until further statutory steps were completed. The first step, an SI, laid in April 2024 ensured that when Ofcom published its final illegal content risk assessment guidance in December 2024, VSPs were required to comply with the duties to assess for illegal content and activity on their service within the three-month deadline. VSPs were required to complete their children's access assessments by April. Following this, if required based on their children's access assessments, they were required to complete the children's risk assessments by 24 July.

From 25 July, VSPs will be subject to the full safety duties in the Online Safety Act 2023, the same day that Ofcom's protection of children codes are expected to come into force. This will ensure that protections for children are maintained during the transition; this is the public position and VSPs were told this when the first SI was laid.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Chair of the House of Lords' Communications and Digital Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Maggie Jones

Baroness Maggie Jones
Minister for the Future Digital Economy and Online Safety

