



# Online Safety Act 2023

## 2023 CHAPTER 50

### PART 9

#### SECRETARY OF STATE'S FUNCTIONS IN RELATION TO REGULATED SERVICES

##### *Strategic priorities*

#### **172 Statement of strategic priorities**

- (1) The Secretary of State may designate a statement for the purposes of this section if the requirements set out in section 173 (consultation and parliamentary procedure) are satisfied.
- (2) The statement is a statement prepared by the Secretary of State that sets out strategic priorities of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom relating to online safety matters.
- (3) The statement may, among other things, set out particular outcomes identified with a view to achieving the strategic priorities.
- (4) This section does not restrict the Secretary of State's powers under any other provision of this Act or any other enactment.
- (5) A statement designated under subsection (1) must be published in such manner as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (6) A statement designated under subsection (1) may be amended (including by replacing the whole or a part of the statement with new material) by a subsequent statement designated under that subsection, and this section and sections 92 and 173 apply in relation to any such subsequent statement as they apply in relation to the original statement.
- (7) Except as provided by subsection (8), no amendment may be made under subsection (6) within the period of five years beginning with the day on which a statement was most recently designated under subsection (1).

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (8) An earlier amendment may be made under subsection (6) if—
- (a) since that day—
    - (i) a Parliamentary general election has taken place, or
    - (ii) there has been a significant change in the policy of His Majesty's Government affecting online safety matters, or
  - (b) the Secretary of State considers that the statement, or any part of it, conflicts with any of OFCOM's general duties (within the meaning of section 3 of the Communications Act).