



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).

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Online Safety Act 2023, Cross Heading: Strategic priorities. (See end of Document for details)

- (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).

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 172 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 240\(1\)](#)
I2 S. 172 in force at 10.1.2024 by [S.I. 2023/1420](#), [reg. 2\(z22\)](#)

173 Consultation and parliamentary procedure

- (1) This section sets out the requirements that must be satisfied in relation to a statement before the Secretary of State may designate it under section 172.
- (2) The Secretary of State must consult—
 - (a) OFCOM, and
 - (b) such other persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate, on a draft of the statement.
- (3) The Secretary of State must allow OFCOM a period of at least 40 days to respond to any consultation under subsection (2)(a).
- (4) After that period has ended the Secretary of State—
 - (a) must make any changes to the draft that appear to the Secretary of State to be necessary in view of responses to the consultation, and
 - (b) must then lay the draft before Parliament.
- (5) The Secretary of State must then wait until the end of the 40-day period and may not designate the statement if, within that period, either House of Parliament resolves not to approve it.
- (6) “The 40-day period” is the period of 40 days beginning with the day on which the draft is laid before Parliament (or, if it is not laid before each House on the same day, the later of the days on which it is laid).
- (7) In calculating the 40-day period, no account is to be taken of any period during which Parliament is dissolved or prorogued or during which both Houses are adjourned for more than 4 days.

Commencement Information

- I3** S. 173 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 240\(1\)](#)
I4 S. 173 in force at 10.1.2024 by [S.I. 2023/1420](#), [reg. 2\(z22\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Online Safety Act 2023, Cross Heading: Strategic priorities.