

"Online safety" laws

**Learnings from a *lot* of
pro bono work**

Hello! I'm Neil

"Online safety" laws

Not just about children

**Extra-territorial
effect?**

In-scope services

**The UK's framework
encompasses services
which lots of FOSS
projects host/use**

- code repos / forges (e.g. forgejo)
- community forums (e.g. Discourse)
- instant messaging services (e.g. XMPP, Matrix)
- conferencing tools (e.g. Jitsi)
- wikis / shared documents (e.g. dokuwiki, Etherpad)
- bug trackers (e.g. Bugzilla)
- translation tools (e.g. Weblate)
- social networking (e.g. Mastodon)

Considerations

1) Can I just ignore this?

**What is the *genuine* risk
of enforcement activity?**

Easier to assess with experience

Risk may change over time

But "doing nothing" is certainly an option

2) What *actual risks* do we pose? Can we mitigate those risks?

A documented risk assessment

Updated as needed

A framework for actually thinking things through

**Different frameworks
may require different
risk assessments**

But...

Perhaps *something* is better than nothing?

Shows that you have thought about things

Common "high risk" topics

Child users

Pornography

Child sexual abuse

Terrorism

Beyond "compliance"

Create a better, safer experience,
especially for more vulnerable users?

Lessening the risk of abusive use of your service(s)

Mitigations

**These will depend on
the identified risk(s)**

And resources, and time, and willing, and
so on...

**Documented, perhaps in
the risk assessment**

**Setting standards, and
upholding them**

Clear, enforced, rules / codes of conduct?

Accessible to all, in plain language

The rules apply to *everyone*?

**Dealing with harm which
has already happened**

Obvious points of contact, if no formal
"reporting" functionality?

Clear understanding about who handles reports, and how?

Documented sanctions, applied rapidly
and equally?

Trying to prevent harm from happening

Proactive steps

Manual approval of account sign-ups?

Different functionality for different users?

Does your Jitsi instance really need to permit anyone in the world to start a video call?

Community knowledge sharing?

Age verification :(

No FOSS-friendly option (AFAIK)

A tricky topic for another session?

**What questions do you
have?**

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