

# **"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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