

25
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Lvl. 2


State
replied

United Kingdom

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Proposals for Online Harms Regulation Risk Impacting Media Freedom



SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY  ▶ Other acts having chilling effects on media freedom

PARTNER: Index, AEJ

Proposed new and wide-ranging legislation in the UK government's "Online Harms White Paper" released on 8 April has raised concerns about media freedom. Proposed measures include a new legal duty of care to address a wide range of "harms" (not limited to illegal material or activities) with the possibility of large fines and potentially criminal liability for senior managers. Companies of all sizes, including social media companies, public discussion forums, non-profit organisations, file sharing sites and cloud hosting providers are included (for example, a blog and comments would be included). Media and campaigning organisations have raised concerns about the risks of direct and indirect interference with media freedom, such as prior restraint for comments sections and potential removal of "harmful" news stories online.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

-  [Independent Press Standards Organisation blog](#)
-  [Online Harms White Paper](#)
-  [News Media Association, representing about 1000 UK newspapers, calls for comprehensive exemption for newspapers from proposed 'online harms' content regulation and warns of 'repressive effect' on press freedom](#)
-  [Index and AEJ statement: 'Online harms and media freedom: UK response to Council of Europe lacks concrete details'](#)

STATE REPLIES



25 Apr 2019 | Reply from the United Kingdom authorities

➔ Letter from the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Jeremy Wright QC MP, to Ian Murray, Executive Director of Society of Editors