



# Online Safety Act 2023

## 2023 CHAPTER 50

### PART 7

#### OFCOM'S POWERS AND DUTIES IN RELATION TO REGULATED SERVICES

### CHAPTER 7

#### COMMITTEES, RESEARCH AND REPORTS

#### **162 OFCOM's report about researchers' access to information**

- (1) OFCOM must produce a report—
  - (a) describing how, and to what extent, persons carrying out independent research into online safety matters are currently able to obtain information from providers of regulated services to inform their research,
  - (b) exploring the legal and other issues which currently constrain the sharing of information for such purposes, and
  - (c) assessing the extent to which greater access to information for such purposes might be achieved.
- (2) For the purposes of this section a person carries out “independent research” if the person carries out research on behalf of a person other than a provider of a regulated service.
- (3) In preparing the report, OFCOM must consult—
  - (a) the Information Commissioner,
  - (b) the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation,
  - (c) United Kingdom Research and Innovation,
  - (d) persons who appear to OFCOM to represent providers of regulated services, and
  - (e) such other persons as OFCOM consider appropriate.

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**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Online Safety Act 2023, Section 162. (See end of Document for details)

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- (4) OFCOM must publish the report within the period of 18 months beginning with the day on which this section comes into force.
- (5) OFCOM must send a copy of the report to the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of State must lay it before Parliament.
- (6) For further provision about the report under this section, see section 164.
- (7) OFCOM must produce guidance about the matters dealt with by the report for providers of regulated services and persons carrying out independent research into online safety matters.
- (8) Before producing the guidance (including revised guidance) OFCOM must consult the persons mentioned in subsection (3).
- (9) OFCOM must publish the guidance (and any revised guidance).
- (10) OFCOM must include in each transparency report under section 159 an assessment of the effectiveness of the guidance.

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**Commencement Information**

- I1** S. 162 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 240\(1\)](#)  
**I2** [S. 162\(1\)-\(6\)](#) in force at 10.1.2024 by [S.I. 2023/1420](#), [reg. 2\(z18\)](#)

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Online Safety Act 2023, Section 162.