



Online Safety Act 2023

2023 CHAPTER 50

PART 7

OFCOM'S POWERS AND DUTIES IN RELATION TO REGULATED SERVICES

CHAPTER 8

MEDIA LITERACY

166 Media literacy strategy and media literacy statement

After section 11 of the Communications Act insert—

“11A Regulated services: media literacy strategy and media literacy statement

- (1) OFCOM must prepare and publish a media literacy strategy within the period of one year beginning with the day on which the Online Safety Act 2023 is passed.
- (2) A media literacy strategy is a plan setting out how OFCOM propose to exercise their functions under section 11 in the period covered by the plan, which must be not more than three years.
- (3) In particular, a media literacy strategy must state OFCOM’s objectives and priorities for the period it covers.
- (4) Before the end of the period covered by a media literacy strategy, OFCOM must prepare and publish a media literacy strategy for a further period, ensuring that each successive strategy covers a period beginning immediately after the end of the last one.
- (5) In preparing or revising a media literacy strategy, OFCOM must consult such persons as they consider appropriate.
- (6) OFCOM’s annual report must contain a media literacy statement.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Online Safety Act 2023, Section 166. (See end of Document for details)

- (7) A media literacy statement is a statement by OFCOM—
- (a) summarising what they have done in the financial year to which the report relates in the exercise of their functions under section 11, and
 - (b) assessing what progress has been made towards achieving the objectives and priorities set out in their media literacy strategy in that year.
- (8) A media literacy statement must include a summary and an evaluation of the activities and initiatives pursued or commissioned by OFCOM in the exercise of their functions under section 11 in the financial year to which the report relates.
- (9) The first annual report that is required to contain a media literacy statement is the report for the financial year during which OFCOM's first media literacy strategy is published, and that first statement is to relate to the period from publication day until the end of that financial year.
- (10) But if OFCOM's first media literacy strategy is published during the second half of a financial year—
- (a) the first annual report that is required to contain a media literacy statement is the report for the next financial year, and
 - (b) that first statement is to relate to the period from publication day until the end of that financial year.
- (11) References in this section to OFCOM's functions under section 11 are to those functions so far as they relate to regulated services.
- (12) In this section—
- “annual report” means OFCOM's annual report under paragraph 12 of the Schedule to the Office of Communications Act 2002;
 - “financial year” means a year ending with 31 March.”

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 166 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 240\(1\)](#)
- I2** S. 166 in force at 10.1.2024 by [S.I. 2023/1420](#), [reg. 2\(z19\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Online Safety Act 2023, Section 166.