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## **Key considerations for keeping children safe online**

### **NSPCC Jersey – June 2025**

We very much welcome the attention being paid to online harms by the Scrutiny Panel. This is a significant issue for child protection in Jersey and beyond. However, comments during the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May do not accurately reflect NSPCC's position on the Online Safety Act and we thought it would be helpful to provide some clarification.

NSPCC views the UK's Online Safety Act as a vital piece of child protection legislation. Introducing much-needed safety duties on online platforms, the Act has the potential to drive transformational change in children's online experiences through holding services accountable for embedding safety in the design of their platforms. The Act must be implemented by the regulator, Ofcom, with ambition, robustly, and comprehensively. Given it is so early in the regulatory regime, we have not yet undertaken any analysis or formed an opinion on how well it is being implemented.

Nevertheless, it is true that there are some areas where the Act does not go as far as we would have liked, or where new challenges have emerged, and that Jersey, should it design its own legislation, could consider. In particular:

- We think the Act, and associated Codes from Ofcom, should go further to keep children safe on private messaging platforms – see: ['Loophole' in law on messaging apps leaves children vulnerable to sexual abuse, says NSPCC | Science, Climate & Tech News | Sky News](#)
- We wanted to see the Act provide for formal, independent mechanisms to ensure that children are consistently able to inform and shape decision-making – see [advocacy-policy-paper.pdf](#)
- There are also new and emerging risks to children on line, such as GenAI which are not at present subject to any duties of care towards children and young people – see: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2025/generative-ai-childrens-safety>

That said, NSPCC had been calling for strong regulation of social media from as far back as 2018 (see: [We're making the internet safer](#); and [taming-the-wild-west-web-regulate-social-networks.pdf](#)) and see the eventual Online Safety Act as a significant milestone in keeping children safe online.

## **EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR**

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