

Consultation response form

Consultation title	Ofcom's proposed Plan of Work
Full name	[X]
Contact phone number	[X]
Representing (delete as appropriate)	Self
Organisation name	[X]
Email address	[X]

Your response

Question	Your response
Question 1: Do you have any comments on Ofcom's proposed Plan of Work 2024/25?	Confidential? – N

Online Safety Act 2023.

I was looking at the @Ofcom papers on this and having a discussion about it again with another German friend from university (near Dusseldorf) who is German origin.

Basically there are laws to stop the Government in Germany, Holland and Denmark from being allowed to censoring any content that is not illegal.

For example a precedent has already been set over the 1976 band, Scorpions 'Virgin Killer'. There was a dispute about the location of the image and it was changed to Germany in order to be legally compliant.

There are a lot of cases where similar things have happened over time. People are protected under the laws of other nations.

A lot the things the UK says is illegal content is legal 200 miles away. For example, in Holland the Christian Party complained about a lot of things related to sex work and the government minister of their nation responsible told them that although they might not like it they are not allowed to interfere because of rights and the law.

In Germany the <http://Playboy.de> website would be made into something that looked like OnlyFans or be fined. It is a cultural affordance to be positive about these naked women and people pride themselves on being more sexually advanced in a lot of countries relative to the 'prude' British.

There is another very big problem which is that a lot of people will immediately see the connection to how it is always the 'Christian' parties whom are demanding this sort of legislation and so if the UK is successful it will potentially cause religious discrimination in Germany.

Another point to make is that in France the @dailystar is illegal because of it's content but they aren't trying to force themselves on the UK to stop it being public.

Post Brexit it leaves a few heads being scratched at how the UK could think it can start creating conflict in Europe, as with the French law it exists but is not possible for them to enforce. It would be like Iran getting in touch with M&S and saying that their underwear pages are moral crimes so they must put their online sales behind an adult checker.

When you look at it from an international relations perspective it is perverse based on the Iran example and the way that it could create religious conflict in Germany and even in other nations too.

It is simple logic for people to assume that. It already is cited by the Dutch because it is always their Christian parties who try to take away their sexual liberation.

The so called adult content blockers which appear to be already doing such a good job that they are creating side effects already. I think the @verge pointed out that they already have a fit for purpose system installed. So if that is the case then you would rule out these risks of conflict and use the system you already have.

What I when I say “appear to be already doing such a good job” is that the British police released an article last week that said UK children are the largest group of sex offenders online now statistically. It is clear to me, I gave an example last week after trying using a UK Government firewall adult blocked system and also a new British SIM card that when you search for porn it is almost impossible to get to. I was working for DEFRA and found it was impossible as a test.

Therefore the largest group of children are obviously in the same realm under these existing content blockers. Then they download torrents, or go to darker areas of the internet including TOR and file sharing websites because they are innately driven to want to find masturbation material.

Meanwhile in Germany or Holland they don't have censorship so they go and satisfy themselves looking at <http://playboy.de> or Pornhub and after a few minutes, or half an hour move onto whatever video game they were playing on before the hormones charged up again.

I am a BSc Psychology with Neuroscience graduate with 3 years of Developmental options so it seems fairly obvious.

The other point is that the real solution is probably to educate the old people who are likely the real reason why it is happening in the first place. Like the Guardian 'Sexual healing' where they have to educate the baby boomers on sex toys and pegging because they have been oppressed so much in the past. There has to be an element of that.

If the Iranians or an Islamic nation tried to forcefully control the British into haram controls it would potentially be construed as an act of war.

Similarly when the Russians or Chinese are accused of trying to meddle in British electronic communications or systems it is sabotage and cybercrime. It isn't quite the same but there are parallels in terms of cultural capital.

Somehow it has to work both ways in terms of empathy and cultural relations and the UK can not realistically become the world bottleneck.

Some things like <http://Playboy.de> if anyone has a problem with it then they are actually the ones who need some kind of therapy and helping to become tolerant and accepting of it. There is no harm in it. They probably need to actually be frank and forward with their members and other groups and show them photos and examples like this.

To hide from this reality is not a positive thing.

These are all taken from public sources and good examples.



In this example the Playboy is on the Weeks recommended reading nationwide. It is a British problem.



Technically I was thinking about it and the point is that what the UK is proposing is not just hegemony, it is cultural vandalism / invasion by the UK, deepened further by how it affects European nations most post Brexit which adds to it being even more inappropriate.

It is extremely serious to do that. The Dutch, German, Danish, French and Scandinavians generally take a lot of pride in their liberal empowerment and feminism with higher level of sexual capital. The Swedish produced a sort of comedy BBC video that mocked British saying "Get over your weird fear of nudity" but it would of course become serious and move away from humour if the UK forced weird fears upon their nations.

There is a positive cultural valuation on the liberty, freiheit, liberté, and so to interfere in it is a bit like transferring the idea of sacrilege to a liberalised nation in terms of their freedom many people died to attain. That is how the Scandinavians look at Allemansrätten when you speak about that.