# Written evidence submitted by the Hacked Off Campaign (OSB59)

This submission covers three clauses in the bill which are relevant to the print & online media:

- a. Clause 49, "Regulated user-generated content", "user-generated content", "news publisher content": this exempts newspaper comment sections from the provisions of the bill
- b. Clause 50, *"Recognised news publisher"* : this sets criteria which publishers must meet to qualify for the news publisher exemption
- c. Clause 16, *Duties to protect journalistic content* : this requires platforms to treat "journalistic content" differently, to give it additional protections (and provides for an expedited appeals process)

# Clause 49, "Regulated user-generated content", "user-generated content", "news publisher content": Newspaper comment sections

- 8. The bill exempts all newspaper publisher comment forums, where some of the most egregious cases of online harm appear (**"the Comment Forum Exemption"**).
- 9. The Bill defines user-to-user services as online forums in which users will encounter content posted by other users. Newspaper publishers' comment forums fall within that definition.
- 10. However, comment forum content is made exempt by Clause 49(2)(e). This specifically exempts "comments and reviews on provider content". This is defined in Clause 49(6) as:

content present on the service consisting of comments on, or reviews of, content produced and published on the service by the provider of the service or by a person acting on behalf of the provider (together with any further comments on such comments or reviews)

## Comment forum content contains online harms

- 11. So far as it covers national newspaper publishers this exemption cannot be justified. The comment forums of the largest newspaper websites contain harmful content, including antisemitism and other forms of racism, personal abuse and conspiracy theory disinformation. The harmful content which appears on comment forums which are social media forums themselves, where users encounter one another's content and respond to it is very similar to that which appears on other social media forums like Facebook and Twitter.
- 12. Many examples are listed in Appendix A. They include:
  - a. Antisemitic abuse such as, "The Talmudic religion wants to enslave you", and allegations that Jewish people control the media, the banks, and similar.

- b. Other racist abuse, such as "The ch\*nks are savages, communist liars... a plague of locust" (asterisk added)
- c. Personal abuse, including misogynistic abuse such as, about a female academic, "She must have such a lonely and bitter life to be so full of hate. That and being so unattractive", "swivel-eyed mad w0man", "Isn't assassination allowed", "A face a dog wouldn't lick" and "Disgusting Dog".
- d. Harmful disinformation, including comments to the effect that COVID was designed by a global elite, that Bill Gates started the pandemic to control the population, and similar.
- 13. Harmful content posted on newspaper comment forums often has the potential to have a far higher reach than content on other social media platforms. For example, the MailOnline reaches almost 25m people/month<sup>1</sup>. The total number of UK users on Twitter is estimated to be just 17.55m<sup>2</sup>.
- 14. Removing this exemption would have no effect on editorial content. The exemption exclusively covers content published by users (commenters).

# Complaints-handler IPSO does not deal with this content sufficiently robustly

- 15. The press complaints-handler IPSO has argued that they are dealing with this content,<sup>3</sup> but it lacks the appropriate systems in place to regulate UGC.
- 16. For example, one important virtue of the regime set out in the Bill is that it would require service providers to take pre-emptive action to prevent harms from being committed. This has been described as "safety by design". In contrast, the "IPSO" system requires a complaint to be made about content, and a 30-day period, before the body will even consider the complaint. It will also not consider complaints about content which has not been moderated.<sup>4</sup>
- 17. One example referred to above is a post on an IPSO-member website which repeated a well-known antisemitic conspiracy theory alleging that Jewish people control society. Under IPSO, that comment might sit on the newspaper's platform for a week before anyone reports it. Another 30 days may go by while the publisher refuses to take it down before IPSO get involved. An IPSO complaint can, then, take up to a year or more to process, and takes an average of six months.
- 18. IPSO's record on UGC speaks for itself. Some of the examples set out in Appendix A show that content was left posted for some time before action was taken. The examples cited in a 2020 Hacked Off report<sup>5</sup> show harmful comments remained accessible for months, in many cases. If the provisions of the bill do not address this kind of UGC then

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://d212k0qo5yzg53.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/20210804134554/Media-Packs\_MOL.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.statista.com/statistics/242606/number-of-active-twitter-users-in-selected-countries/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.ipso.co.uk/news-press-releases/blog/ipso-blog-user-generated-content/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://www.ipso.co.uk/news-press-releases/blog/ipso-blog-user-generated-content/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> <u>https://hackinginquiry.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Fake-News-and-Racism-in-the-Wild-West-of-newspaper-comment-sections.pdf</u>

it will remain possible for seriously harmful content of the kind described in this submission to be posted and accessible to millions of readers.

- 19. A further problem, specific to IPSO, is that this body relies on the "Editors' Code" a standards code written by newspaper editors. This code contains no provision concerning group discrimination. This is why it is possible for newspaper columns to refer to migrants as "cockroaches" and similar; no complaint can be made against any content which is discriminatory against a group of people (for example, migrants, Muslims, Jewish people, people with disabilities, and so on). If hateful content directed against a group of people is to be identified as a "harm", then IPSO will be unable to address it in comment forums at all.
- 20. Finally, IPSO relies on the standards code it uses for editorial content to regulate UGC (so far as it can be said to regulate this content at all). It therefore sets inappropriate thresholds. For example, it has a reasonably strong accuracy clause which, although poorly enforced by IPSO in practice, should in theory outlaw even fairly minor inaccuracies in publishers. That is appropriate for newspapers, but not for citizens posting UGC, for which a more appropriate threshold might require an inaccuracy to also be capable of causing harm. In theory, therefore, the codes could require publishers to take action against even minor inaccuracies in comment forums (albeit, on a slow timescale as set out above). This would impact on citizens' freedom of expression to a degree which would be incompatible with the principles of the bill.
- 21. In summary, IPSO is not capable of regulating comment forums effectively or in a manner consistent with the principles and approach of the Bill. The effect is felt by hundreds, if not thousands, of people who are affected by hate, harmful disinformation and abuse in comment forums every year. There is no good reason to leave comment forum regulation to complaints-handlers which are designed to cover editorial content, and lack the expertise required to cover comment forums. Additionally, many publishers are not a member of either popular body. Instead, national newspaper commenting forums should be covered by the new regime which has been specifically drafted to deal with these forms of content.

### **Recommendations to the Committee:**

- (1) Remove the relevant exemption's effect, in respect of news publishers
- (2) Set a turnover threshold, to ensure this only affects the largest news publishers and is not an undue burden on smaller publishers (such as locals and blogs).

# Clause 50, *"Recognised news publisher"*: definition of news publishers, relevant amendments: 86 – 88; 107

- 22. The Online Safety Bill provides an exemption for the social media accounts of some news publishers ("the News Publisher Content Exemption"), and search results listing their websites and those which republish their content, which:
  - a. Relies on a flawed definition of a news publisher, which would inadvertently risk exempting publishers of egregiously harmful and dangerous content from the effects of the bill, including extremist publications and media outlets propagandising for hostile foreign states,
  - b. Wrongly excludes dozens of well-regulated publishers, and,
  - c. Would create a regulatory "double standard" between the free speech of citizens on technology platforms and that of newspaper publishers.
- 23. This exemption is listed alongside other exemptions for regulated content, and is defined as content published by, or originating with, a "recognised news publisher". The intention of this exemption is to shield broadcasters and traditional newspaper publishers from actions that providers of search services and user to user services are otherwise compelled to take to protect the public from online harms under the regulatory regime proposed in the bill.
- 24. Subclause 50(2) defines a "recognised news publisher" as a broadcaster, or a publisher which meets the following criteria:

(a) has as its principal purpose the publication of news-related material, and such material— (i) is created by different persons, and (ii) is subject to editorial control, (b) publishes such material in the course of a business (whether or not carried on with a view to profit), (c) is subject to a standards code, (d) has policies and procedures for handling and resolving complaints, (e) has a registered office or other business address in the United Kingdom, (f) is the person with legal responsibility for material published by it in the United Kingdom, and (g) publishes— (i) the entity's name, the address mentioned in paragraph (e) and the entity's registered number (if any), and (ii) the name and address of any person who controls the entity (including, where such a person is an entity, the address of that person's registered or principal office and that person's registered number (if any)).

- 25. These criteria are irrational for the following reasons.
- 26. First, by subclause 50(2)(c) the publisher must have a "standards code", but the clause does not specify any requirements that a "standards code" must meet. The only stipulation (subclause 50(5)) is that the code is published by an "independent regulator"

(which is also undefined) or by the publisher itself. This means that the code could contain literally anything; it could incentivise misconduct, for example, instead of outlawing it.

- 27. Second, by clause 50(2)(d) the publisher must have "*policies and procedures for handling and resolving complaints*", but there is nothing further specifying what policies & procedures are sufficient. If the rationale for the exemption is to protect news publishers having their content twice regulated, then the bill must require that any regulation already in effect is sufficiently robust (providing, specifically, for such regulation to be of an at least equivalent standard to that set out in the bill). A vague requirement to "have policies and procedures" provides no protection whatever: such policies & procedures may be entirely unfit for purpose. They may be unwritten, amendable at the convenience of the publisher, or dictated and controlled by the publisher itself to ensure that no complaint can ever be successful.
- 28. The effect of the way these criteria are drafted in clause 50 is that websites and outlets which specialise in disinformation ("fake news") and other hateful, harmful or abusive material may qualify, and thus benefit from an exemption from the regulatory effects of the bill. Some examples are set out in Appendix B. These include websites and magazines which promote antisemitism and other racist beliefs. It should be unacceptable for the hateful content of such outlets to benefit from an exemption in the bill, yet this is what the bill currently proposes.
- 29. Indeed, under the current terms of this definition, there are publications set out in Appendix B which would be able to freely publish on social media racist articles they have recently published. Racist material of this type should be within the scope of the harms of the bill, yet under this definition they are likely to be exempt when posted by this publisher if it is within the definition of "news publisher".
- 30. The exemption also applies to content republished by any social media user, but which was first published by a news publisher. This would render racist individuals free to circumvent the new regime by republishing an article from a racist publication.
- 31. Websites in the tradition of "lads mags" may also be able to claim an exemption. These websites publish some news-related material alongside images of women. The exemption would apply to the publisher, not the content, so the Twitter accounts of these sites would be free to publish semi-naked and suggestive images of women (which may be found to be harmful to children, under the terms of the bill), with impunity.
- 32. There is another category of publishers which do not meet the criteria now but could do so with minor administrative changes. These are US-based and other international publishers, who could nominate a UK-based entity with legal responsibility for the publication, adopt a "standards code" and "complaints policies". There are a number of examples of explicit US hate websites who could qualify for the exemption this way. Three examples are listed in Appendix B.
- 33. Another problem with this exemption is that, while in some ways it is too broad, in others it is too narrow. For example, the requirements to have a "registered office" or "business address" would exclude many blog outlets, as would the requirement for content to be

produced by different persons. This would adversely affect hundreds if not thousands of publishers. See Appendix B for some examples of publishers which are independently regulated – to a significantly higher standard than many national newspapers – yet would be cut out of this definition for reasons connected to the manner of their establishment (because they don't have a postal address or are produced by a single writer). This is unfair and irrational.

- 34. Also included in Appendix B is a list of examples of high quality, distinctive journalism from regulated publishers. These include local newspapers scrutinising local government and reporting on important developments in the community, publications targeted at under-served communities, and national titles providing cultural analysis from different perspectives. None of this journalism would qualify for the exemption under the terms of the definition in the bill, despite being regulated and of high quality.
- 35. More fundamentally, the News Publisher Content Exemption would create two tiers of regulation: the freedom of expression of ordinary citizens would be more restricted than that of news publishers.
- 36. One intended effect of the regime set out in the bill is that regulated services would act to address user-posted harmful content on their services. This would necessarily restrict users' ability to exercise their freedom of expression on the platform (where doing so harms others).
- 37. Waiving service providers' regulatory responsibilities in respect of content published by those which meet the criteria for "recognised news publishers" would, therefore, have the effect of subjecting most users to greater restrictions on their freedom of speech than those publishers.
- 38. This would leave content posted by publishers (who often have social media accounts with large number of followers) less regulated than citizen-posted content. This is wrong. Citizens' rights to freedom of expression are of no lesser value than those of news publishers. Further, given the reach of the largest publishers, if there is to be variation in how citizens and publishers are treated, it is publishers which are capable of greater harm and should therefore face more robust regulation of content.
- 39. One argument the Government relied on in its defence of the various exemptions and areas of special treatment for newspaper publishers in the bill is that these titles are already regulated (so that the content they post is already more strictly controlled than that of ordinary citizens). But as set out above, the definition of a "recognised news publisher" makes no requirement whatever for publishers to be regulated in any form. All manner of unregulated, fringe and extreme websites could bring themselves within the definition of "news publishers" while many well-regulated publishers do not fit within it.
- 40. The two-tiered system of regulation under the bill, therefore, would allow extreme publishers to publish racist content, while citizens posting the same content would see it (rightly) taken down.

41. Equally, this would also cause citizens to be treated differently to popular publishers. After the terrorist attack in New Zealand in March 2019, popular news publishers including MailOnline and the Daily Mirror published video footage of the attack recorded by the killer<sup>6</sup>. The MailOnline went further and published the killer's manifesto. Both the video (recorded by the killer) and the manifesto were articles of extremist propaganda, and Twitter, Facebook and YouTube rightly took action to have them removed from their platforms (not quickly enough, but action was taken). Yet, it is likely that this content was made available to a far larger audience by the news publishers. If this were to happen again, the Online Safety Bill regime would rightly cause citizens' posts of this content to be addressed, but not those of news publishers'.

# A fair definition for a "recognised news publisher"

- 42. If newspapers are to be exempted from these provisions, a suitable definition of news publishers would need to be:
  - e. Sufficiently *inclusive* to cover all journalistic enterprises, and,
  - f. Sufficiently *exclusive* to ensure only titles regulated at least to the standards of the bill are able to benefit from this exemption.

A definition which does not meet those criteria would suffer from the unacceptable flaws described above.

- 43. There is only one legally established mechanism capable of verifying the effectiveness of regulatory bodies for news publishers. This is the definition of an "Approved regulator", which is defined in section 42 of the Crime & Courts Act 2013<sup>7</sup> as a regulator which has passed an independent audit under the regime recommended in the Leveson Report.
- 44. Outside of that system there are a variety of other complaints-handling processes adopted by various publishers which may meet the criteria for a "recognised news publisher" in Clause 40. These include the processes adopted by newspapers such as the Financial Times and the Guardian (which are not subject to any external scrutiny) or the notoriously inadequate complaints handling procedures of IPSO. None have been independently verified as effective and, therefore, no reasonable definition is capable of separating those among them which are more effective than others.
- 45. Any definition of a news publisher for whose content an exemption from these provisions would be appropriate must then rely on the auditing system referred to in the Crime and Courts Act 2013. One such regulator exists, IMPRESS.
- 46. Exempting only independently regulated publishers would ensure that any title, big or small, UK-based or international, written by a team of professional writers or a single volunteer, could benefit from the exemption. If an exemption is required it should be available only to publications which are effectively and independently regulated.

## The effect on unregulated publishers would be proper and proportionate

47. Some of the large newspaper groups have insisted that they will not be independently regulated under any circumstances. If this exemption were to be limited to independently

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://hackinginquiry.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/inflection-point.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/22/contents/enacted

regulated titles only, some of these newspapers' content would be indirectly affected by the regime. But even should that be the case, the effect on these newspapers would be proper and proportionate.

- 48. The Bill does not extend to newspaper-published content on their own websites or paper editions; it is limited to the way in which service providers manage content on their services. The impact of losing this exemption for those publishers would, therefore, have no impact on newspapers' ability to publish content on their own platforms.
- 49. The only possible impact for news publishers which are not independently regulated would be felt if content published by a newspaper was posted on a social media platform or appeared in search results and was sufficiently harmful to the public to be in breach of the standards agreed under the new regime. In this case, the service provider might act to address that posting or search result. The newspaper would remain free to publish the content on its own website and in its paper edition, both of which would be beyond the scope of Ofcom's regulatory powers and responsibilities.

### **Recommendations to the Committee:**

(1) Restrict the definition of a recognised news publisher to publishers which are members of an approved regulator, as defined in the Crime and Courts Act 2013.

# Clause 16, Duties to protect journalistic content

This duty requires platforms to have special terms and processes for handling journalistic content.

Platforms are also required to provide:

- An expedited appeals process for removed posts
- Terms specifying how they will define journalistic content

## Flaws in this duty

- 1. Some of these flaws also apply to the duty to protect content "of democratic importance", which is set out in clause 15 (although the journalistic content duty is more dangerous, because it is a more powerful duty):
  - **a.** Too much discretion for platforms: Platforms themselves are required to define "journalistic" content, a role they are unsuitable for.
  - **b. Open to abuse:** Individuals intent on causing harm are likely to apply to take advantage of either the journalistic content or content of democratic importance duties; masquerading as journalists or claiming democratic importance in whatever harm they are causing (which could apply to almost anything). A number of individuals promoting content which is harmful to children, such as "pro-ana" profiles, for example, may also seek to portray themselves as lifestyle journalists in order to benefit from the journalistic content duty.
  - **c. Unnecessary:** There is a cross-cutting duty to have regard to freedom of expression, rendering this additional duty unnecessary.
  - **d.** Unworkable: Treating "journalistic" and "democratically important" content differently is unworkable, leaving platforms to make impossible judgments over, for example, when and for how long an issue becomes a matter of reasonable public debate, or in what settings a person is acting as a journalist.
- 2. Appendix A sets out the details of several individuals who have had their access to social media revoked by the platforms, for posting harmful content online. Each claimed to be journalists.
- 3. As a result of these duties, those individuals:
  - May have access to an expedited appeals process, if they meet the platform's own definition of a "journalist" (which the bill provides no substantive guidance on)
  - May be able to compel platforms to restore their account if they meet the relevant criteria which the bill, again, does not provide substantive guidance on
- 4. Altogether, this is a clause at high risk of abuse. A possible unintended effect of this clause is that social media platforms become *less safe*, because it empowers dangerous and harmful social media users with a special appeal process and additional protections for the harmful content they choose to publish.
- 5. It's not clear how platforms will be expected to balance the duties on journalistic content & and on the harms. If the purpose of the journalistic content duties is to require harmful

content to be addressed more leniently, where it meets the platform's own definition, then extremists are likely to find ways to exploit them.

- 6. If the journalistic content duties are not expected to have this effect then they are largely redundant, except for the expedited appeals process.
- 7. The content of democratic importance duties do not appear to achieve anything specific, given that the cross-cutting free expression duty (c19) already protects free speech online.

### **Recommendations to the Committee:**

- (1) Apply a "public interest" test to all content considered under these duties (as recommended, in terms, by the Joint Committee which scrutinised the draft bill).
- (2) The duties should not apply except where the user is a recognised news publisher, which must be:
  - a. An independently regulated broadcaster, with an Ofcom licence
  - b. An independently regulated online or print publisher, which is in an approved regulator (as defined in the Crime and Courts Act 2013)
- (3) The duties to protect content of democratic importance should be removed.

## **APPENDIX A:**

# **Online harms committed in national newspaper comment forums**

The below lists some of the examples of different kinds of harmful content found in newspaper comment forums.

### Antisemitism

Comments found after reviewing The Sun's coverage of the Halles terrorist attack on a synagogue, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019.





Under Sun coverage of the rapper Wiley's Twitter ban, after he published antisemitic tweets, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020. These comments <u>remained accessible on The Sun's website for at least 5</u> <u>days.</u>

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# Other forms of racism

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Reply

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# Anti-transgender hatred

MailOnline, under <u>coverage</u> of toilet facilities for transgender people, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

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# Personal abuse

The MailOnline, under <u>coverage</u> of Vice President Kamala Harris, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021.

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The MailOnline, under <u>coverage</u> of a female academic and union leader, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

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Comments appearing under <u>coverage</u> of a female academic, who has written about the UK's colonial history.

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	f 🗾 👂 🛷	Click to r	ate	¢	14	₽	
L	Why are there so many air-headed women like this profeseducated dim.	ssor who cannot	t resi	st wo	kery. (	Over-	
	f 🎔 🖗 🕫	Click to r	ate	Ŷ	71	₽	

icester, United Kingdom, 7 months ago				
After the first few paragraphs of this article I had to stop reading because I j angrier and disgusted with this article people like these shouldn't be anyw education of our students.				ore
f 🎽 🦻 🔗 🛛 Click to rate	• •	90	₽	0
, United Kingdom, 7 months ago				
They need removing from their posts and replacing with sane, competent p	eople.			
f 💟 🦻 🖉 Click to rat	• •	90	₽	0

# Under coverage of an actress in the MailOnline.

2	Wood, United States, 21 hours ago Nothing personal, but who would want to see you nude? Ma even then	aybe if your face w	/asn't	show	ın, but	
	New Comment Reply	Click to rate	¢	5	₽	31
1	, KS, United States, 22 hours ago She is not attractive. The director made the right call.					
	New Comment Reply	Click to rate	¢	5	₽	19

Under <u>coverage of a model</u> in the MailOnline.



	bo	ourne , Austra	alia, 2 hours ago					12
	It's the absolute even give a dan		s so sickening. Thinking stic prain !	king your large ass in	our f	aces li	ke we	l
	New Comment	Reply		Click to rate	Ŷ	32	₽	1
		wi	ickshire, United Kingdom, 2 ho	urs ago				
	She's f	iltered it. It's	large and saggy with pot ho	les all over it.				
				Click to rate	٠	12	₽	3
1	Put it away nobe for this sort of be	ody wants to	ussia, 3 hours ago see your nasty bits that hav	e been used and abu	sed. '	You ar	e too (	old
	New Comment	Reply		Click to rate	¢	22	₽	3
		i, ments w	ere published too, United King	dom, 4 hours ago				
X	A family of koes	, cheap pr05	5titutes, haggard face p1mp	mom, should be on S	unse	t Boule	evard.	
	New Comment	Reply		Click to rate	¢	23	₽	6

# Under coverage of Vice-President Kamala Harris, a popular target of abuse:

	e, United States, 2 weeks ago				12	
	Joe and the Ho will be the worst admin ever in the US. Democrats out NOW!!					
		~				
	Click to rate	Ŷ	54	~	0	
	.aLand, United States, 2 weeks ago					
	Due Ole Leatherford Lier					
	Bye Ole Leatherface Liar					
	Click to rate		25	л	•	
	Click to rate	v	20	$\sim$	2	
	Northern Kingdom, United States, 2 weeks ago					
	STAY IN ASISA, YOU WORTHLESS POS					
	Click to rate		64	æ	2	

1	na, 2 weeks ago Kamala Harris is a RAT deserting a sinking ship.					
		Click to rate	Ŷ	55	∿	0
	onngor ionaa, onedo, United States, 2 weeks ago					
—	Where is her mask?- she needs one and not for Covid					
		Click to rate	¢	17	₽	0

Under coverage in The Daily Star of a <u>woman's dispute</u> with her son's school.



# **Disinformation & conspiracy theories**

Under Sun coverage of the coronavirus:



Under Sun coverage of a coronavirus expert in China:

We do know for sure they lied along with WHO who now is being investigated and payments withdrawn to them by my country USA. Every country should do the same. No eBay shopping no Amazon shopping or at least make sure it's not made in china. People will tell u it's impossible to shop without having to buy China's cheap rubbish. But that's not entirely true you'd just have to pay tad more but better guality obviously. Everyone knows now it's man made simply coz it's 90odd % bat and something else but what they know now it must be something rare and exotic. Whether it came straight out of the labs is doubtful because they know that would be a guilty verdict straight away and easily sussed out. So this is how they done it just like how these vets have been looking into it. They have like everyone knows have been stopping large trucks full of pet's and exotic animals and many trucks heading to the wet market's with the animals limbs missing and still alive where they have been experimenting on the adrenal glands, the same experimental procedures they were doing with bats. THIS IS WHAT THE W.H.O ACTUALLY KNEW COZ THEY WERE TOLD LONG AGO BEFORE EVERYONE EXCEPT THESE VETS. THE LAST TIME WE SAW THESE VETS WERE ON YOUTUBE AND WERE SAYING THEY NEED TO GET TO HONG KONG. THE CHINESE CAN BLAME IT ON WET MARKETS ONLY AND PLEAD THERE INNOCENCE AND CALL IT ACCIDENTALLY, WHEN IN FACT IT WAS DELIBERATE DONE TO MESS UP THE WORLDS ECONOMY, CHINESE TO THE RESCUE AND A MASSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Reply

B12 Q1

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+ P Grimms

The virus started in the US and was brought by American soldiers to Wuhan in Oct 2019.Western press are always very quick to blame China, Russia for everything.

Reply



Comment below Telegraph story on sunbathing & coronavirus:

в

pr 2020 10:53PM

Time to ask some hard questions about how this 'virus' originated. The fact these questions have not been asked by the British MSM is to their eternal shame.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzaVpUjV5rg&feature=youtu.be

Reply

This link is to a Youtube video hosting Covid disinformation.

Comments under a Telegraph story on Coronavirus:

pr 2020 11:16PM
Eric Nelson Exactly. That is why the second richest man in the world, Bill Gates, took out a patent on Coronavirus strain last year. He is now heavily involved in the business side of getting a workable drug combat Covid-19. I suppose an obscene personal fortune isn't enough. Another obscenity is that any dividual, how ever rich and powerful, can be allowed to own a patent on a virus!
Flag
8 Apr 2020 12:04AM
@VK Frodsham @Eric Nelson
I am pretty sure it was his charity that took out the patent and not for the Corana Virus.
"This connection has been used by some to suggest Gates personally knew about COVID-19 before it spread, or even that he was funding it.
However, the foundation's funding for Pirbright is not for work related to the coronavirus patent, and the foundation has separately pledged millions of dollars to fight COVID-19."
Reply Flag
Apr 2020 1:58AM 3 Like
@Richard Atherton @VK Frodsham @Eric Nelson If you dig deeper you will discover his charity is just another personal power structure (like the Clinton Foundation). Also I didn't say he took out a patent on Covid-19. I said he took out a patent on a Covid virus (there are over 3,000 strains of it apparently). Of course he did so under the umbrella of his charity. The fact remains he is in the driving seat of his charity, just like the Clintons with their extremely dubious one. That he can use his charity to take out a patent on a virus is something the media should be all over. They aren't because Bill Gates is part of the inner circle of untouchables (Soros being another).
Reply Flag

Like

Flag

### Under a Telegraph story about 5G:

Like 5 Apr 2020 10:44PM more than 2000 experts (scientists) signed an appeal to stop 5G because of significant concerns and risks. It wasn't listened to at all. Yet the same people will say 'listen to the experts' within this Covid-19 issue. as always, it is just a question of what fear has motivated people to say 'listen to the experts' https://www.5gspaceappeal.org/the-appeal Reply Flag

### Under a Telegraph story on Boris Johnson's contraction of COVID:

1 9 Apr 2020 9:24AI	N
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"Everything we know so far."

1. The virus was created and spread by the Globalist Deep State.

2. The 'lock down' was put in place by this vile, evil cult as part of their agenda to curb freedom and liberty.

3. Boris Johnson was deliberately targeted by them.

4. Raab has become a puppet of theirs without realising it.

5. Military and special operations are ongoing behind the scenes by 'positive' forces attempting to remove the Deep State.

6. Well known household names who are connected with this nefarious global Cabal, will be arrested in due course.

Reply

2 Like

Flag

9 Apr 2020 9:52AM

The mainstream media is CONTROLLED by the Deep State, merely a cog in the wheel. The illusion of OFCOM was that it was setup to stop just anyone from broadcasting information on the mainstream media platform and has nothing to do with 'standards'. If anyone tries to create a general circulation newspaper (newsprint) and website and publish information about the Deep State etc, it will be shutdown by OFCOM. In fact, it would be unlikely that it would be given permission from the start.

Reply

Flag

# Under a Mirror story on the Covid crisis:



# Under a Mail story on the SAGE advisory group:



### **APPENDIX B:**

# Publishers which may be eligible to claim an exemption as a "recognised news publisher"

The following publishers may be able to claim their content is exempt from the bill's effects on social media platforms, by meeting the bill's criteria for news publishers.

### Heritage and Destiny

This is a racist news website and magazine promoting "racial nationalism".

It recently published a tribute to the Holocaust denier Henry Hafenmayer, and an article suggesting England men's black football players should not be picked to take penalties because people of colour do not perform "well under pressure".

Provided it can show it has a complaints process & standards code (which could constitute anything, according to the bill), it would likely gain an exemption.

Examples of recent content which may be exempt:

Henry Hafenmayer - champion of German freedom - dies aged 48

Two very different wings of the anti-Islam movement

Did 'racism' win on penalties?

[links redacted]

Website:

[links redacted]

## **David Icke**

This is a news website promoting harmful and dangerous conspiracy theories (some of which have racist themes).

Examples of recent content which may be exempt:

"How they are killing you and calling it Covid"

"Fascist Israeli government bars unjabbed or untested teachers & healthcare workers from workplaces (Israelis – your country is not controlled by Jews but by a Sabbatian cult posing as Jews. Sabbatians hate Jews. Play that across current events and it all makes sense)" "60% Of Those Older Than 50 Who 'Die From Covid' Are Double Vaxxed (They die from the fake vaccine NOT 'Covid'!)"

[links redacted]

Website:

[link redacted]

Many similarly harmful websites also exist in the US. The criteria for the exemption in the bill include requirements that the outlet has a UK address, but any publisher could create one and establish itself as having a UK-based element to help them qualify.

The following outlets are examples of those which are at risk of becoming exempt, by making the necessary administrative changes to meet these criteria:

National Vanguard, an antisemitic hate website.

Evil News, a conspiracy theory website.

InfoWars, a conspiracy theory website.

[links redacted]

# Standards-abiding publishers which may fall short of the definition to qualify for the news publisher exemption

These publishers are independently regulated and are therefore subject to a form of regulation more stringent than most national newspapers, and, of course, the various extremist outlets referred to above. However, the criteria to benefit from the exemption includes that the publisher has a registered business address and that an address is published on its website. These three outlets are examples of those which do not meet all of these criteria and may therefore be deprived of this exemption.

The terms of the exemption are likely to specifically discriminate against local publishers.

Crowborough Life Website: <u>https://crowboroughlife.com/</u>

Down News

Website: https://downnews.co.uk/

Gedling Eye

Website: https://www.gedlingeye.co.uk/contact/

Some examples of ethical journalism which would not be exempt under current definition, because these publishers too are not covered by the exemption – despite being regulated to a higher standard than most national newspapers.

The Barnet Post's scrutiny of local Government planning decisions.

The Cranfield and Mastonvale Chronicle's <u>community-supporting report on a schoolboy's</u> <u>efforts to support unwell children</u>.

Gal-Dem on Indigenous Brazilians' legal fight with Bolsonaro.

Gedling Eye on community support for key workers.

Greater Govanhill on the Sikh community's charitable initiatives during COVID in Glasgow.

### **APPENDIX C:**

Individuals banned from social media platforms, who claim to be "journalists" and maybe able to exploit the *journalistic content duties*.

### Charles C Johnson

A far-right activist who described himself as an 'investigative journalist'. Banned from Twitter for saying he would 'take out' a civil rights activist. He is also alleged to be a holocaust denier.

### Robert Stacy McCain

Banned from Twitter for "participating in targeted abuse". He was a journalist for The Washington Post, but is alleged to also have been a member of League of the South, a farright group known to include racists.

### **Richard B Spencer**

Far-right journalist and former editor, only temporary banned for using overlapping accounts. Pictured making the Nazi salute, and has repeated Nazi propaganda. When Trump became president he encouraged people to 'party like it's 1933'.

#### Baked Alaska

Journalist and former Buzzfeed contributor. Now associated with the far-right. Claimed that the media was run by Jewish people. Banned after creating an image of a Jewish activist inside a gas chamber.