

Online Safety Bill

AMENDMENT
TO BE MOVED
IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

After Clause 146

LORD ALLAN OF HALLAM

Insert the following new Clause—

“OFCOM’s report about age assurance technologies

- (1) OFCOM must produce a report—
 - (a) describing the technical solutions that may be used to determine the age of users of a regulated service for the purposes of compliance with this Act,
 - (b) exploring the legal and other issues which arise from the use of each of these solutions,
 - (c) assessing the extent to which each solution is effective in restricting access to age-inappropriate content and services, and
 - (d) assessing the financial and other costs associated with each solution.
- (2) For the purposes of this section age assurance technologies includes—
 - (a) the collection of personal data from users as proof of age;
 - (b) the collection of financial data from users as proof of age;
 - (c) the use by services of third-party data sources as proof of user age;
 - (d) the use of biometric data to estimate the age of users;
 - (e) the use of behavioural data to estimate the age of users;
 - (f) such other technologies as may be developed as indicators of user age.
- (3) In preparing the report, OFCOM must consult—
 - (a) the Information Commissioner,
 - (b) the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation,
 - (c) civil society organisations with relevant expertise,
 - (d) persons who appear to OFCOM to represent providers of age assurance services,
 - (e) persons who appear to OFCOM to represent providers of regulated services, and
 - (f) such other persons as OFCOM consider appropriate.

After Clause 146 - continued

- (4) OFCOM must publish the report within the period of six 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) OFCOM must produce an updated version of the report annually.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would require OFCOM to publish and regularly update a report evaluating technologies for age assurance with the aim of improving public and Parliamentary understanding of the different options available.

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15 March 2023
