



PRIORITY ILLEGAL CONTENT AND RELATED CPS GUIDANCE

The Online Safety Act’s illegal content duties apply to offences, defined as “priority illegal content” that are contained in [Schedule 5 \(terrorism offences\)](#), [Schedule 6 \(child sexual abuse offences\)](#) and [Schedule 7 \(a range of other offences\)](#).

The tables below provide links to the legislation that underpins those individual offences and, where applicable, Crown Prosecution Guidance on the offence.

SCHEDULE 5: TERRORISM OFFENCES

Legislation and related offence in Schedule 5	CPS guidance (if applicable) ¹
Terrorism Act 2000 (Various terrorism offences)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/crime-info/terrorism
Anti- terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (Use of noxious substances or things)	
Terrorism Act 2006 (Various terrorism offences)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/crime-info/terrorism
Serious Crime Act 2007 (Inchoate offences)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/inchoate-offences

¹ Note that CPS guidance is only applicable to England and Wales, whilst the Online Safety Act also includes offences specific to Northern Ireland and Scotland. Guidance specific to Northern Ireland can be found on the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland [website](#), and guidance specific to Scotland can be found on the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service [website](#)

SCHEDULE 6: CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE OFFENCES

Legislation and related offence in Schedule 6	CPS guidance (if applicable) ²
Obscene Publications Act 1959 (Offences relating to an obscene article tending to deprave or corrupt others)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/obscene-publications
Protection of Children Act 1978 (Indecent photographs of children)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/indecent-and-prohibited-images-children
Protection of Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (Indecent photographs of children)	
Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Possession of indecent photograph of a child)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/indecent-and-prohibited-images-children
Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Various child exploitation and abuse offences)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/rape-and-sexual-offences-chapter-13-sexual-offences-and-youths
Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 (Various child exploitation and abuse offences)	
Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (Possession of a prohibited image of a child)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/indecent-and-prohibited-images-children
Series Crime Act 2015 (Possession of a paedophile manual)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/indecent-and-prohibited-images-children
Serious Crime Act 2007 (Inchoate offences)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/inchoate-offences
Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Indecent photographs of children)	

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Legislation and related offence in Schedule 6	CPS guidance (if applicable) ²
Protection of Child and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005 (Various child exploitation and abuse offences)	
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 (Various child exploitation and abuse offences)	

SCHEDULE 7: PRIORITY OFFENCES

Legislation and related offence in Schedule 7	CPS guidance (if applicable) ³
Suicide Act 1961 (Assisting Suicide)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/suicide-policy-prosecutors-respect-cases-encouraging-or-assisting-suicide
Criminal Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 (Assisting Suicide)	
Offences against the Person Act 1861 (Threats to Kill)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/offences-against-person-incorporating-charging-standard
Public Order Act 1986 (Various public order offences, harassment, stalking and fear or provocation of violence)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/public-order-offences-incorporating-charging-standard
Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 (Racially aggravated harassment)	
Protection from Harassment Act 1997 (Various public order offences, harassment, stalking and fear or provocation of violence)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/stalking-or-harassment
Protection from Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (Various public order offences, harassment, stalking and fear or provocation of violence)	
Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Racially or religiously aggravated public order offences or harassment)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/public-order-offences-incorporating-charging-standard

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Legislation and related offence in Schedule 7	CPS guidance (if applicable) ³
Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (Threatening/abusive behaviour and stalking)	
Serious Crime Act 2015 (Controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/controlling-or-coercive-behaviour-intimate-or-family-relationship
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Various offences related to drugs and psychoactive substances)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/drug-offences
Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (Supplying or offering to supply psychoactive substances)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/psychoactive-substances
Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959 (Sale etc. of flick knife etc.)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/firearms
Firearms Act 1968 (Various offences related to firearms and other weapons)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/firearms
Crossbows Act 1987 (Various offences related to crossbows)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/offensive-weapons-table-offences-defences-and-applicability
Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Sale of firearms and other weapons)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/offensive-weapons-table-offences-defences-and-applicability
Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (Sale of knives)	
Knives Act 1997 (Marketing of knives)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/offensive-weapons-knife-crime-practical-guidance
Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 (Various offences related to firearms and other weapons)	

Legislation and related offence in Schedule 7	CPS guidance (if applicable) ³
Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 (Sale of realistic imitation firearms)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/firearms
Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 (Various offences related to air weapons)	
Immigration Act 1971 (Assisting illegal immigration)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/immigration
Modern Slavery Act 2015 (Human trafficking)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/modern-slavery-human-trafficking-and-smuggling
Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 (Human trafficking)	
Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (Human Trafficking)	
Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Causing/inciting/controlling prostitution for gain)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/publication/prostitution-and-exploitation-prostitution
Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 (Causing/inciting/controlling prostitution for gain)	
Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (Possession of extreme pornographic images)	
Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 (Disclosing private sexual photographs and films)	https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/social-media-and-other-electronic-communications

Legislation and related offence in Schedule 7	CPS guidance (if applicable) ³
<p>Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016</p> <p>(Disclosing private sexual photographs and films)</p>	
<p>Proceeds of Crime Act 2002</p> <p>(Various offences related to proceeds of crime)</p>	<p>https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/proceeds-crime</p>
<p>Fraud Act 2006</p> <p>(Various fraud offences)</p>	<p>https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/fraud-act-2006</p>
<p>Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010</p> <p>(Articles for use in fraud)</p>	
<p>Financial Services and Markets Act 2000</p> <p>(Various offences related to financial services)</p>	
<p>Financial Services Act 2012</p> <p>(Misleading statements/impressions)</p>	
<p>National Security Act 2023</p> <p>NOTE: this offence has not yet been brought into force</p> <p>(Foreign interference)</p>	
<p>Animal Welfare Act 2006</p> <p>(Unnecessary suffering of an animal)</p>	<p>https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/offences-involving-domestic-and-captive-animals</p>
<p>Serious Crime Act 2007</p> <p>(Inchoate Offences)</p>	<p>https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/inchoate-offences</p>