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ICYMI · SEP 10TH VOL 23

UNITED KINGDOM · CHILD SAFETY

The UK Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's statement on protecting children online

Lisa Nandy, The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has set out government plans to bring forward primary legislation requiring device-level and app-level protections for children. The measures follow engagement with Apple and Google and are intended to prevent minors taking, sharing or viewing nude imagery on phones and tablets.

The stated aim is automated age assurance at operating-system level, alongside image-blocking mechanisms and platform safety controls, to curtail grooming, sexual extortion and child sexual abuse.

FLORIDA · DATA PRIVACY

Florida v. Netflix

Florida alleges that Netflix, having promised a surveillance-free alternative to Big Tech, deceptively collected and commercialised behavioural data from subscribers and children, deployed dark patterns such as default autoplay, and sold sensitive data without consent, contrary to FDUTPA and the Florida Digital Bill of Rights.

UNITED STATES · LEGISLATION

The Ban Artificial Superintelligence Act

The proposed Act would prohibit developing or deploying artificial superintelligence, defined as AI matching or exceeding human cognition across broad domains. It would pause frontier development pending a new cabinet-level regulator empowered to remove hazardous capabilities and impose criminal penalties.

UNITED STATES · COPYRIGHT

Seattle Times v. Open AI & Microsoft

The Seattle Times and Newsday allege that OpenAI and Microsoft copied large quantities of their journalism to train and operate generative AI systems, obtaining articles by automated scraping and circumventing paywalls. They allege the models reproduce or paraphrase their reporting, that copyright-management information was removed, and that fair use does not apply.

AUSTRALIA · ONLINE SAFETY

Digital Duty of Care

Australia's proposed Digital Duty of Care would require digital services, including AI chatbots, games and messaging platforms, to identify and mitigate risks of harm to under-18s and document their measures. Its My Feed, My Way component would let users over 16 opt out of algorithmic recommendation. The eSafety Commissioner would oversee compliance, with penalties up to A\$109.2m.

IRELAND · ONLINE SAFETY

Irish Investigation commenced into X under Online Safety Code

On 8 September 2026 Coimisiún na Meán opened a formal investigation into X for potential breaches of Ireland's Online Safety Code. The inquiry concerns whether X has effective age assurance to keep minors from adult content, the regulator saying self-declaration alone is insufficient, and whether its parental controls meet the Code's minimum requirements. Non-compliance carries fines of up to €20 million or 10% of turnover.

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