

Please keep my submission anonymous. My submission can be made publicly available.

I'm writing to submit my objection to the proposed Online Safety Act. While legislation in this area needs updating, there are significant areas of concern in the proposed Act that make it manifestly unsuitable to address these issues.

At a minimum, the Act needs far greater transparency than it contains currently. The commissioner's powers under this Act are far too broad to enable them to be exercised without sufficient review, and this Act does not provide the required level of review.

I concur with the changes suggested by Digital Rights Watch:

- A sunset clause: We need the ability to review how and if these powers are working well, and decide if the legislation should be renewed or revisited. A sunset clause ensures such a process takes place.
- Multi-stakeholder oversight board to review decisions made to remove and block content. This should include sex workers and activists and happen on a regular (but at least an annual) basis.
- Transparency over the categories of content take-downs, complaints, and blocking notices issued, including the reasoning. This will allow for public and Parliamentary scrutiny over the ultimate scope and impact of the Bill.
- A meaningful appeals process, so people can challenge removal notices in a timely manner, without having to go through the court system.
- Explicit assurance that ISPs and digital platforms will not be expected to weaken or undermine encryption in any way to comply with any parts of this Bill.

Without these changes, the bill will cause more harm than it is intended to avoid, and this government should not agree to supporting it in its current form given the dangers it presents to many already marginalised groups.

