

Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | October 2022 | Issue 24



In this month's newsletter:

Article 1 – Online Safety Bill

Article 2 – Radicalisation

Introduction

Welcome to another edition of safeguarding news. In this month's edition we draw attention to the online safety bill that is still continuing its journey through parliament. The article and links are worth reading as they draw attention to the rationale behind the proposed changes. Some of you may have watched or still be watching 'The Walk In' on TV and so we also highlight the dangers of radicalisation and highlight the UK governments Prevent strategy. You will have been introduced to Prevent in the early stages of your apprenticeship and our fundamental British Values:

- Rule of Law
- Democracy
- Mutual Respect
- Individual Liberty
- Tolerance of Others

Finally, I have come across a link to a mental health charity support line. We provide links to information and support sites through safeguarding news. Links that one day may just be able to help if you need support. 'Shout' exists to provide support to anyone, anywhere and at any time who may be experiencing a challenging time with their mental health. All you need to do is text them to access support and to start a conversation.

[Free, 24/7 mental health text support in the UK | Shout 85258 \(giveusashout.org\)](https://giveusashout.org)

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Article 1 – Online Safety Bill

The government earlier this year made proposals to shake up the online Safety Bill, partly due to a number of teenaged deaths, including Molly Russell, which have been found to be linked to groups on social media. It is an attempt to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from harmful influences such as self-harm, radicalisation, and suicide.



The aim of the bill is to help reduce false news, conspiracy theories and to limit access to minors and vulnerable people from content that could lead to radicalisation, self-harm, suicide, or crime. It means that social media platforms and search engines will have to monitor and police the content that they publish much more closely than they have needed to previously.

There is embedded in the bill a Duty of Care for larger tech companies and social media platforms. There will be a regulator set up to monitor and police these companies and the companies will be responsible to amend their terms and conditions in line with the new directives whilst removing all harmful content that users post on their platforms.

The main aim of this bill is to prevent the spread of illegal content and protect children. There is also an emphasis on securing adults from 'legal but harmful content' such as abuse, harassment, self-harm and eating disorders. It also hopes to stop online fraud by making the online platform responsible to act against paid for scam adverts that may be hosted on their services.

The bill is seen by some as controversial as they see it as a curb on free speech. There may need to be a review of end-to-end encryption in chat groups due to the risk of radicalisation, cyber bullying or grooming. End-to-end encryption is where a message goes through algorithms to scramble a message, so that if it is intercepted before it reaches the receiver it wouldn't be readable, but once it hits the receiver it has reverted to the original message. This is attractive to people wishing to spread false news, groom people or scam people as the content cannot be seen by a third party and so hiding the contents by anyone wishing to intercept the contents.

To sum up the proposals of the Bill are to help safeguard the most vulnerable in society and to help curb online crime.

Useful Links

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-bill-supporting-documents/online-safety-bill-factsheet>

<https://www.techradar.com/features/uk-online-safety-bill>

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Article 2 – Radicalisation



Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support **terrorism** and **extremist** ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Keeping Children Safe in Education

Radicalisation is when a person, or group of people are targeted and groomed so that they start to believe in extreme or support terrorist ideologies. The people targeted are often vulnerable, impressionable and lonely. Their behaviours may change, and they may start to talk about new friends, or disconnect from their old friendship group. People whose views don't follow, or start to move away from, British Values are often at risk. Spotting these changes in people can lead to stopping them becoming radicalised. This is one of the reasons why we display British Values in all our teaching and exam rooms.

Who is at risk? The people who are often at risk may have poor mental health, be struggling with identity and belonging, have family issues, experiencing racism or discrimination, and they may have low self-esteem.

The Prevent programme is aimed at supporting and helping individuals and communities which may be at risk of radicalisation especially groups linked to the Far Right or extremist Islamic groups. The programme works with front line agencies such as schools, health services and the police to target those they think may be at risk of radicalisation.

If you have been watching the drama 'The Walk In' on ITV, you will know that groups that radicalise vulnerable people will use messaging via little known software that is end-to-end encrypted. This means that the messages are hard to intercept. They will prey on people who are vulnerable, using their vulnerabilities to convert them to their ideology and making them feel included and accepted in the group giving them a form of identity and esteem. Newly radicalised members will often be given titles to make them feel important, but the titles have no worth. It is a programme that is designed to give the target purpose if they adopt the extremist ideology that the group is promoting.

Be wary of your friends talking about a new group of people, using new language, having changes in religious or political views and personality changes. Try to keep an open dialogue with the person you are concerned about, making sure they feel heard and valued.

Useful Links

<https://safeguarding.network/content/safeguarding-resources/radicalisation/>

<https://www.preventingexploitationtoolkit.org.uk/identifying-exploitation/radicalisation/>

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Other contacts:

Samaritans	Phone: 116 123 Website: www.samaritans.org
MIND (Mental Health)	Phone: 0300 123 3393 Text: 86463 Website: www.mind.org.uk
NHS (Urgent medical conditions)	Phone: 111
Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)	Phone: 999
PREVENT (Suspicious activity, terrorism, radicalization)	Phone: 0800 789 321
RUN. HIDE. TELL. (Although terrorist attacks are very rare, we are not complacent about keeping you safe)	Website: www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe

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Links relevant from the last six issues

Stoptober/ Vaping	https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/ https://www.blf.org.uk/take-action/campaign-with-us/stoptober
Grief	www.cruse.org.uk Support and self-care for grief - Mind Get help with grief after bereavement or loss - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
Modern Slavery	Modern slavery and human trafficking - National Crime Agency The Issue — Human Trafficking Foundation
Disability Rights	Human Rights: Our Rights - Disability Justice Helplines Disability Rights UK
Dementia	https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/ https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/alzheimers-disease/ https://www.dementiauk.org/about-dementia/young-onset-dementia/
Respect and Sexual Abuse	https://inherentlyhuman.wordpress.com/2015/04/15/we-need-a-new-law-to-combat-upskirting-and-downblousing/ Help after rape and sexual assault - NHS (www.nhs.uk) Rape Crisis England & Wales
Health tips for Hot Weather	https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/heatwave-how-to-cope-in-hot-weather/ https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice/health-wellbeing/tips-for-keeping-older-people-cool
Debt and Money Management	https://www.stepchange.org/debt-info/manage-your-budget.aspx https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/help-with-debt/dealing-with-your-debts/collecting-information-about-your-debts/
Pride @50	www.supportline.org.uk/problems/sexuality www.stonewall.org.uk www.lgbthealth.org.uk
Festivals	www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-61460338 www.festivalsafe.com