

CHILDREN & PORNOGRAPHY: AGE VERIFICATION TIMELINE

2015

Conservative Manifesto promises to protect children from stumbling across hardcore pornography online.

2021

First draft of the Online Safety Bill

2021-2023

Online Safety Bill continues journey through Parliament (includes age verification measures)

2023

Online Safety Bill receives Royal Assent and becomes the Online Safety Act

2023

Online Safety Bill is amended to bring all regulation of pornographic content under redrafted Part 5, based on the framework set out in Part 3 of the Digital Economy Act 2017

Online Safety Bill receives Royal Assent and becomes the Online Safety Act

2023 - 2024

Ofcom undertakes and completes:

Child Protection Consultation
Children's Access Assessments and Guidance Statement
Child Protection Guidance and Codes
Further research and public consultation

Within 4 months of Royal Assent

Ofcom prepares and issues Code of Practice for all pornographic content outlining age verification requirements for all regulated services under Part 5

Within 6 months of Royal Assent

Ofcom begins implementation of regulation of age verification for all pornographic content

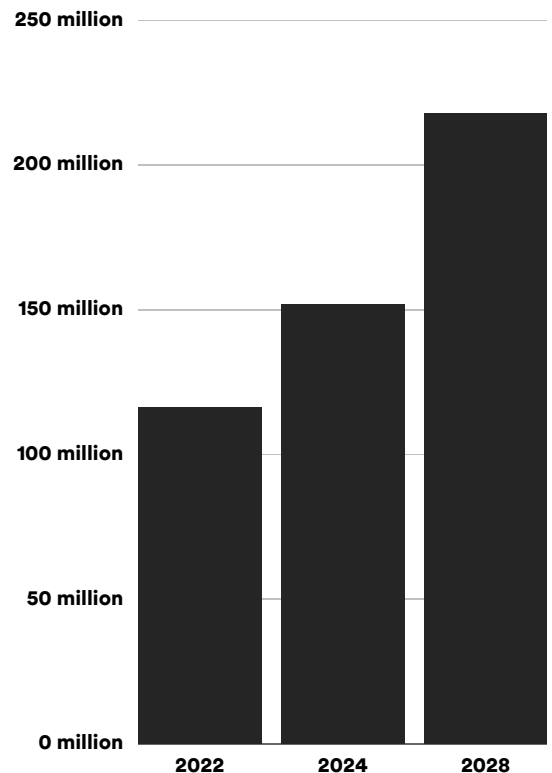
Mid to late 2024

Secondary Legislation covering child protection is passed by Parliament (to include pornography under Part 3)*

*Ofcom artificially delays implementation of Part 5 of the Bill which covers 'provider produced' pornography, to align it with Part 3

BASED ON REDRAFTED PART 5

■ CURRENT PROJECTION



Early 2025

Parliament approves Ofcom Child Protection Codes

2025 - 2027

Ofcom begins monitoring and engagement phases, similar to Video Sharing Platform regulatory processes (current timeline of implementation and enforcement is 2-3 years)

2027 - 2028

Ofcom begins enforcing age verification to keep children from viewing pornography - 12 years have passed and there have been c. 200 million incidences of children accessing hardcore pornography since the Government first made this promise to the UK public*

*Based on the UK government's own estimation and further estimates from the NSPCC.

BASED ON CURRENT PROJECTION

INSTANCES OF CHILDREN ACCESSING HARDCORE PORNOGRAPHY SINCE 2015 TORY PROMISE