

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

MARSHALLED LIST OF MOTIONS

TO BE MOVED ON CONSIDERATION OF COMMONS REASONS AND AMENDMENTS

[The page and line references are to HL Bill 84, the Bill as first printed for the Lords]

MOTION A

LORDS AMENDMENTS 37 AND 38

After Clause 26

37 After Clause 26, insert the following new Clause —

“Action to prohibit the provision of VPN services to children in the United Kingdom

- (1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed the Secretary of State must, for the purpose of furthering the protection and wellbeing of children, make regulations which prohibit the provision to UK children of a relevant VPN service (the “child VPN prohibition”).
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) —
 - (a) may make provision for the provider of a relevant VPN service to apply to any person seeking to access its service in or from the UK age assurance which is highly effective at correctly determining whether or not that person is a child;
 - (b) must apply the child VPN prohibition to the provider of any relevant VPN service which is, or is likely to be —
 - (i) offered or marketed to persons in the United Kingdom;
 - (ii) provided to a significant number of persons;
 - (c) must make provision for the monitoring and effective enforcement of the child VPN prohibition.
- (3) OFCOM may produce guidance for providers of relevant VPN services to assist them in complying with the child VPN prohibition.

- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (5) For the purposes of this section –
 - “child” means a person under the age of 18;
 - “consumer” means a person acting otherwise than in the course of a business;
 - “relevant VPN service” means a service of providing, in the course of a business, to a consumer, a virtual private network for accessing the internet;
 - “UK child” means any child who is in the United Kingdom.”

38

After Clause 26, insert the following new Clause –

“Action to promote the wellbeing of children in relation to social media

- (1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must, for the purposes of promoting the wellbeing of children –
 - (a) direct the Chief Medical Officers of the United Kingdom (“the UK CMOs”) to prepare and publish advice for parents and carers on the use of social media by children at different ages and developmental stages, and
 - (b) by regulations made by statutory instrument require all regulated user-to-user services to use highly- effective age assurance measures to prevent children under the age of 16 from becoming or being users.
- (2) Any advice published under subsection (1)(a) must have regard to –
 - (a) the paper published on 7 February 2019 entitled “United Kingdom Chief Medical Officers’ commentary on ‘Screen-based activities and children and young people’s mental health and psychosocial wellbeing: a systematic map of reviews’”, and
 - (b) any scientific or other developments since the publication of that paper which appear to the UK CMOs to be relevant.
- (3) Any regulations under subsection (1)(b) must be treated as an enforceable requirement within the meaning of section 131 (and for the purposes of Part 7) of the Online Safety Act 2023.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1)(b) or subsection (5) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (5) For the purposes of this section –
 - “the Chief Medical Officers of the United Kingdom” means the Chief Medical Officers for –
 - (a) England,
 - (b) Wales,
 - (c) Scotland, and
 - (d) Northern Ireland;
 - “regulated user-to-user services” shall have the meaning given to it in the Online Safety Act 2023, subject to any modification, addition or exclusion

as the Secretary of State may specify in regulations made by statutory instrument under this subsection.”

COMMONS DISAGREEMENT AND AMENDMENTS IN LIEU

The Commons disagree to Lords Amendments 37 and 38 but propose amendments 38A, 38B, 38C, and 38D to the Bill as amendments in lieu –

38A Page 122, line 38, at end insert the following new Clause –

“Power to require internet service providers to restrict access by children to certain internet services

- (1) The Online Safety Act 2023 is amended as follows.
- (2) After section 214 insert –

“Power to require internet service providers to restrict access by children to certain internet services

214A Power to require internet service providers to restrict access by children to certain internet services

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision requiring providers of specified internet services –
 - (a) to prevent access by children of or under a specified age to specified internet services which they provide, or to specified features or functionalities of such services;
 - (b) to restrict access by children of or under a specified age to specified internet services which they provide, or to specified features or functionalities of such services.
- (2) The provision that may be made by regulations under this section includes –
 - (a) provision about the steps that must or may be taken by a provider for the purposes of complying with a requirement imposed by the regulations;
 - (b) provision about the monitoring of compliance with a requirement imposed by the regulations;
 - (c) provision about the enforcement of a requirement imposed by the regulations.
- (3) The provision that may be made by virtue of subsection (1)(b) includes provision requiring a provider to limit –
 - (a) the amount of time per day, or over the course of a specified period, for which children may access the service or a specified feature or functionality of the service;
 - (b) the times of day at which children may access the service or a specified feature or functionality of the service.

- (4) The provision that may be made by virtue of subsection (2)(c) includes provision for a requirement to be an enforceable requirement for the purposes of Chapter 6 of Part 7.
- (5) Regulations under this section may –
 - (a) make provision applying any provision of this Act (with or without modifications);
 - (b) make provision for exceptions to requirements imposed by the regulations;
 - (c) make provision about the time by which, or period within which, a thing must be done;
 - (d) make provision by reference to standards, arrangements, specifications or technical requirements as published from time to time;
 - (e) confer functions on a person, including functions involving the exercise of a discretion, and make provision in connection with the procedure for exercising the functions;
 - (f) make consequential provision.
- (6) Regulations made by virtue of subsection (5)(f) may amend or repeal primary legislation.
- (7) OFCOM must, so far as reasonably practicable –
 - (a) carry out such research or provide such advice as the Secretary of State may request for the purposes of making regulations under this section, and
 - (b) do so by such time, or within such period, as the Secretary of State may specify in the request.
- (8) As soon as reasonably practicable after providing advice under subsection (7), OFCOM must publish the advice.
- (9) In this section –

“primary legislation” means –

 - (a) an Act of Parliament,
 - (b) an Act of the Scottish Parliament,
 - (c) an Act or Measure of Senedd Cymru, or
 - (d) Northern Ireland legislation;

“specified” means specified, or of a description specified, in regulations under this section.”
- (3) In section 225 (parliamentary procedure for regulations), in subsection (1), after paragraph (e) insert –

“(ea) regulations under section 214A(1),”.

38B Page 122, line 38, at end insert the following new Clause –

“Age of consent in relation to processing of a child’s personal data: information society services

- (1) Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data is amended as follows.
- (2) In Article 8 (child's consent in relation to information society services), after paragraph 2 insert –
 - “2A. The Secretary of State may by regulations –
 - (a) amend paragraph 1 so as to change the age for the time being specified in that paragraph (but not to an age lower than 13 years or higher than 16 years);
 - (b) make provision in relation to services specified, or of a description specified, in the regulations for a different age to apply for the purposes of paragraph 1 (but not lower than 13 years or higher than 16 years).
 - 2B. Regulations under paragraph 2A are subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.”.
- (3) After Article 8, insert –

“Article 8ZA

Child’s consent in relation to information society services: age verification

1. The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision about verifying –
 - (a) that a data subject who has given consent to the processing of his or her personal data in relation to the offer of information society services is at least the age for the time being specified in Article 8(1);
 - (b) in the case of a service specified, or of a description specified, in regulations under Article 8(2A)(b), that a data subject who has given consent to the processing of his or her personal data in relation to the offer of information society services is at least the age for the time being applicable by virtue of those regulations in relation to that service or description of service.
2. The provision that may be made by regulations under paragraph 1 includes –
 - (a) provision imposing requirements on persons specified, or of a description specified, in the regulations;
 - (b) provision about the steps that must or may be taken by such persons for the purposes of complying with a requirement imposed by the regulations;
 - (c) provision about the monitoring of compliance with a requirement imposed by the regulations;

- (d) provision about the enforcement of a requirement imposed by the regulations.
- 3. Regulations under paragraph 1 may –
 - (a) make provision amending, repealing, revoking or applying (with or without modifications) any provision of the data protection legislation (within the meaning given by section 3(9) of the Data Protection Act 2018);
 - (b) make provision for exceptions to requirements imposed by the regulations;
 - (c) make provision about the time by which, or period within which, a thing must be done;
 - (d) make provision by reference to standards, arrangements, specifications or technical requirements as published from time to time;
 - (e) confer functions on a person, including functions involving the exercise of a discretion, and make provision in connection with the procedure for exercising the functions.
- 4. Regulations under this Article are subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.
- 5. In paragraph 1, the reference to information society services does not include preventive or counselling services.””

38C Clause 66, page 124, line 4, at end insert –

- “(aa) section (*Power to prevent or restrict access by children to certain internet services*);
- (ab) section (*Age of consent in relation to processing of a child’s personal data: information society services*);”

38D Title, line 9, after “schools;” insert “about preventing or restricting access by children to certain internet services; about the age of consent in relation to processing of a child’s personal data in relation to information society services;”.

LORDS DISAGREEMENT, NON-INSISTENCE, INSISTENCE AND REASON

The Lords do not insist on their Amendment 37, disagree with the Commons in their Amendments 38A, 38B, 38C and 38D in lieu and do insist on their Amendment 38 for Reason 38H.

38H *Because the Lords wish the Commons to consider the matter again.*

COMMONS INSISTENCE ON DISAGREEMENT, NON-INSISTENCE, AND AMENDMENTS IN LIEU

The Commons insists on its disagreement with the Lords in their Amendment 38, but does not insist on its Amendments 38A to 38D and proposes the following Amendments to the Bill in lieu of the Lords Amendment –

38J Page 122, line 38, at end insert the following new Clause —

“Power to require internet service providers to prevent or restrict access by children to internet services

- (1) The Online Safety Act 2023 is amended as follows.
- (2) After section 214 insert —

“Power to require internet service providers to prevent or restrict access by children to internet services

214A Power to require internet service providers to prevent or restrict access by children to internet services

- (1) The Secretary of State may, for the purpose of protecting relevant children from a risk of harm (including harm presented by content), make provision by regulations requiring providers of specified internet services —
 - (a) to prevent access by relevant children to specified internet services which they provide, or to specified features or functionalities of such services;
 - (b) to restrict access by relevant children to specified internet services which they provide, or to specified features or functionalities of such services.
- (2) “Relevant child” means a child who is of, or under, a specified age (and different ages may be specified for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1)).
- (3) The provision that may be made by regulations under this section includes provision —
 - (a) about the steps that must or may be taken by a provider for the purposes of complying with a requirement imposed by the regulations;
 - (b) about the monitoring of compliance with a requirement imposed by the regulations;
 - (c) about the enforcement of a requirement imposed by the regulations.
- (4) The provision that may be made by virtue of subsection (1)(b) includes, for example, provision requiring a provider of an internet service to —
 - (a) limit the amount of time per day, or over the course of a specified period, for which relevant children may access the service or a specified feature or functionality of the service;
 - (b) limit the times of day at which relevant children may access the service or a specified feature or functionality of the service;
 - (c) restrict access by relevant children to a service or to a feature or functionality of a service by virtue of which —
 - (i) a user of the service could receive unsolicited contact from a person who is not known to the user;

- (ii) a user of the service could encounter live oral communications or live video generated directly on the service, or uploaded to or shared on the service, by a person who is not known to the user;
 - (iii) a person who is not known to a user of the service could encounter live oral communications or live video generated directly on the service, or uploaded to or shared on the service, by the user;
 - (iv) a person who is not known to a user of the service could identify the actual or approximate location of the user.
- (5) The provision that may be made by virtue of subsection (3)(c) includes provision for a requirement to be an enforceable requirement for the purposes of Chapter 6 of Part 7.
- (6) In making regulations under this section, the Secretary of State must have regard to the fact that children of different ages may be affected by an internet service, or a feature or functionality of an internet service, in different ways.
- (7) Regulations under this section may –
 - (a) make provision applying any provision of this Act (with or without modifications);
 - (b) make provision for exceptions to requirements imposed by the regulations;
 - (c) make provision about the time by which, or period within which, a thing must be done;
 - (d) make provision by reference to standards, arrangements, specifications or technical requirements as published from time to time;
 - (e) confer functions on a person, including functions involving the exercise of a discretion, and make provision in connection with the procedure for exercising the functions;
 - (f) make consequential provision.
- (8) Regulations made by virtue of subsection (7)(f) may amend or repeal primary legislation.
- (9) OFCOM must, so far as reasonably practicable –
 - (a) carry out such research or provide such advice as the Secretary of State may request for the purposes of making regulations under this section, and
 - (b) do so by such time, or within such period, as the Secretary of State may specify in the request.
- (10) As soon as reasonably practicable after providing advice under subsection (9), OFCOM must publish the advice.
- (11) In this section –
 - “primary legislation” means –

- (a) an Act of Parliament,
- (b) an Act of the Scottish Parliament,
- (c) an Act or Measure of Senedd Cymru, or
- (d) Northern Ireland legislation;

“specified” means specified, or of a description specified, in regulations under this section.”

- (3) In section 225 (parliamentary procedure for regulations), in subsection (1), after paragraph (e) insert –

“(ea) regulations under section 214A(1),”.

38K Page 122, line 38, at end insert the following new Clause –

“Progress statement

- (1) The Secretary of State must, before the end of the period of six months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed, lay before Parliament a statement setting out –
 - (a) what progress has been made towards making the first regulations under section 214A(1) of the Online Safety Act 2023 (inserted by section (*Power to require internet service providers to prevent or restrict access by children to internet services*) of this Act) (“the first regulations”), and
 - (b) a timeline for making the first regulations.
- (2) The duty in subsection (1) does not apply where the first regulations have been made before the end of the period mentioned in subsection (1).”

38L Page 122, line 38, at end insert the following new Clause –

“Age of consent in relation to processing of a child’s personal data: information society services

- (1) Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data is amended as follows.
- (2) In Article 8 (child's consent in relation to information society services), after paragraph 2 insert –
 - “2A. The Secretary of State may by regulations –
 - (a) amend paragraph 1 so as to change the age for the time being specified in that paragraph (but not to an age lower than 13 years or higher than 16 years);
 - (b) make provision in relation to services specified, or of a description specified, in the regulations for a different age to apply for the purposes of paragraph 1 (but not lower than 13 years or higher than 16 years).
 - 2B. Regulations under paragraph 2A are subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.”

(3) After Article 8 insert –

“Article 8ZA

Child’s consent in relation to information society services: age verification

1. The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision about verifying –
 - (a) that a data subject who has given consent to the processing of his or her personal data in relation to the offer of information society services is at least the age for the time being specified in Article 8(1);
 - (b) in the case of a service specified, or of a description specified, in regulations under Article 8(2A)(b), that a data subject who has given consent to the processing of his or her personal data in relation to the offer of information society services is at least the age for the time being applicable by virtue of those regulations in relation to that service or description of service.
2. The provision that may be made by regulations under paragraph 1 includes –
 - (a) provision imposing requirements on persons specified, or of a description specified, in the regulations;
 - (b) provision about the steps that must or may be taken by such persons for the purposes of complying with a requirement imposed by the regulations;
 - (c) provision about the monitoring of compliance with a requirement imposed by the regulations;
 - (d) provision about the enforcement of a requirement imposed by the regulations.
3. Regulations under paragraph 1 may –
 - (a) make provision amending, repealing, revoking or applying (with or without modifications) any provision of the data protection legislation (within the meaning given by section 3(9) of the Data Protection Act 2018);
 - (b) make provision for exceptions to requirements imposed by the regulations;
 - (c) make provision about the time by which, or period within which, a thing must be done;
 - (d) make provision by reference to standards, arrangements, specifications or technical requirements as published from time to time;
 - (e) confer functions on a person, including functions involving the exercise of a discretion, and make provision in connection with the procedure for exercising the functions.
4. Regulations under this Article are subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.

5. In paragraph 1, the reference to information society services does not include preventive or counselling services.””

- 38M** Clause 65, page 123, line 36, leave out “This Part extends” and insert “Section (*Progress statement*) and this Part extend”
- 38N** Clause 66, page 124, line 4, at end insert –
- “(aa) section (*Power to require internet service providers to prevent or restrict access by children to internet services*);
- (ab) section (*Progress statement*);
- (ac) section (*Age of consent in relation to processing of a child’s personal data: information society services*);”
- 38P** Title, line 9, after “schools;” insert “about preventing or restricting access by children to internet services; about the age of consent in relation to processing of a child’s personal data in relation to information society services;”

LORDS NON-INSISTENCE, AGREEMENT AND AMENDMENTS TO AMENDMENT IN LIEU

The Lords do not insist on their Amendment 38, agree with the Commons in their Amendments 38J, 38K, 38L, 38M, 38N and 38P in lieu, and propose Amendments 38V, 38W and 38X as amendments to Commons Amendment 38J –

- 38V** In subsection (2), in inserted subsection (7)(a), after “modifications” insert “, subject to subsection (8A)”
- 38W** In subsection (2), at the end of inserted subsection (8) insert “, subject to subsection (8A).
- (8A) Regulations made more than two years after the day on which the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 is passed may not amend or repeal primary legislation or apply any provision of this Act with modification.”
- 38X** At the end of subsection (2) insert –
- “214B Use of section 214A powers in relation to regulated user-to-user services**
- (1) The Secretary of State must make regulations under section 214A(1)(a) requiring providers of specified regulated user-to-user services to use highly-effective age assurance measures and reasonable anti-circumvention measures to prevent access by children in the United Kingdom under the age of 16 to those services which they provide, or to specified features or functionalities of such services.
- (2) A draft of the first such regulations must be laid before each House of Parliament within eight months of the day on which the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 is passed.
- (3) Subject to approval by a resolution of each House of Parliament, the first such regulations must be brought into effect within one year of the day on which the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 is passed.

- (4) When making the regulations described at subsection (1), the Secretary of State must—
- (a) seek to protect children under the age of 16 from any general or specific characteristics of those services, features or functionalities which it is reasonable to believe, having regard to any advice provided for that purpose by relevant experts—
 - (i) are likely to cause, encourage or facilitate compulsive, obsessive, addictive or other unhealthy behaviours among children,
 - (ii) could expose children to risks of serious harm, manipulation or exploitation,
 - (iii) could expose children to illegal content or primary priority content, or
 - (iv) could expose children to serious loss of privacy or to contact from strangers;
 - (b) have regard to the desirability of facilitating studies by charities and independent researchers of the safety and appropriateness for children of the characteristics of regulated user-to-user services;
 - (c) make any necessary provisions or consequential amendments to ensure that—
 - (i) the duties on the providers of regulated user-to-user services under those regulations are enforceable requirements for the purposes of section 131 and Part 7 of this Act, and
 - (ii) section 49 (relationship between duties and codes of practice) of this Act does not apply to those duties.
- (5) In this section, a “relevant expert” means OFCOM, the Children’s Commissioner, any of the Chief Medical Officers of the United Kingdom, the Medical Royal Colleges, and any other persons from whom the Secretary of State considers it appropriate to seek relevant expert advice or input.

214C Supporting children’s understanding of user-to-user services

The Secretary of State must take action to ensure that, effective for the academic year commencing in September 2027, the national curriculum contains age-appropriate material to explain the reasons for children under the age of 16 being prevented from accessing different kinds of regulated user-to-user services, or features or functionalities of such services, including—

- (a) the implications for children’s wellbeing of their use of or exposure to services with characteristics of the kind described in subsection 214B(4)(a), and
- (b) the range of business models, methods and motivations for and the implications of the online collection and processing of children’s data.”

COMMONS INSISTENCE, DISAGREEMENT AND REASONS

The Commons insist on their Amendment 38J, disagree with the Lords in their Amendments 38V and 38W to Commons Amendment 38J for Reason 38Y, and disagree with the Lords in their Amendment 38X to Commons Amendment 38J for Reason 38Z –

- 38Y** *Because the Amendments would restrict the ability of the Secretary of State to make future regulations under the power conferred by the clause inserted by Amendment 38J in response to developments in the area of children's online safety.*
- 38Z** *Because the Amendment would pre-empt the outcome of the ongoing public consultation regarding children's online safety.*
- A★** **Baroness Smith of Malvern to move, That this House do not insist on its Amendments 38V to 38X to Commons Amendment 38J, to which the Commons have disagreed, and do propose Amendments 38Z1 to 38Z9 to Commons Amendments 38J and 38K in lieu of Amendments 38V to 38X –**
- 38Z1** As an Amendment to Commons Amendment 38J, in subsection (2), in inserted subsection (1)(a), leave out “features or functionalities” and insert “functionalities or other features”
- 38Z2** As an Amendment to Commons Amendment 38J, in subsection (2), in inserted subsection (1)(b), leave out “features or functionalities” and insert “functionalities or other features”
- 38Z3** As an Amendment to Commons Amendment 38J, in subsection (2), in inserted subsection (4)(a), leave out “feature or functionality” and insert “functionality or other feature”
- 38Z4** As an Amendment to Commons Amendment 38J, in subsection (2), in inserted subsection (4)(b), leave out “feature or functionality” and insert “functionality or other feature”
- 38Z5** As an Amendment to Commons Amendment 38J, in subsection (2), in inserted subsection (4)(c), leave out “feature or functionality” and insert “functionality or other feature”
- 38Z6** As an Amendment to Commons Amendment 38J, in subsection (2), in inserted subsection (6), leave out from “to” to the end and insert “–
- (a) the different ways in which an internet service of a particular kind is used, including functionalities or other features of the service that affect how much children use the service, and the impact of such use on the level of risk of harm that might be suffered by children, and
 - (b) the fact that children of different ages may be affected by an internet service, or a functionality or other feature of an internet service, in different ways.”
- 38Z7** As an Amendment to Commons Amendment 38J, in subsection (2), after inserted subsection (8) insert –
- “(8A) The Secretary of State –
- (a) must exercise the power under subsection (1) so as to make such provision as the Secretary of State considers appropriate following the conclusion of the consultation entitled “Growing up in the online world: a national consultation” launched on 2 March 2026 (command paper numbered CP 1528), and

- (b) must, in exercising that power, have regard to the responses to the consultation.”

38Z8 As an Amendment to Commons Amendment 38K, after subsection (1) insert –

- “(1A) The timeline must provide for the first regulations to be laid before Parliament before the end of the period of 18 months beginning with the day on which the statement is laid under subsection (1).”

38Z9 As an Amendment to Commons Amendment 38K, after subsection (2) insert –

- “(3) If the first regulations have not been laid before Parliament before the end of the period mentioned in subsection (1A) –
 - (a) the Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a statement explaining why, and
 - (b) before the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which the statement under paragraph (a) is laid, the Secretary of State must lay the first regulations before Parliament.
- (4) References in this section to the laying before Parliament of the first regulations are to the laying before Parliament of a draft of a statutory instrument containing the first regulations.”

A1 Lord Nash to move, as an amendment to Motion A, leave out from “House” to end and insert “do insist on its Amendments 38V to 38X to Commons Amendment 38J.”

A2★ Baroness Kidron to move, as an amendment to Motion A, leave out from “propose” to end and insert “Amendment 38Z10 to Commons Amendment 38J in lieu of Amendments 38V to 38X –

38Z10 At the end of subsection (2) insert –

“214B Use of section 214A powers in relation to harmful internet services

- (1) The Secretary of State must make regulations under section 214A(1)(a) requiring all providers of internet services to use highly-effective age assurance measures and reasonable anti-circumvention measures to prevent or restrict access by children in the United Kingdom under an appropriate age to any services which they provide which do not meet the requirements set out in subsection (2), or to any features or functionalities of such services that do not meet those requirements.
- (2) The requirements under this subsection are that a service, or feature or functionality of a service –
 - (a) must be in compliance with –
 - (i) any Codes of Practice published by OFCOM pertaining to the safety of children as users of internet services,
 - (ii) the Children’s code published by the Information Commissioner’s Office, and
 - (iii) a service’s own stated key terms of use;
 - (b) must not have any general or specific characteristics which it is reasonable to believe, having regard to any advice provided for that purpose by relevant experts –

- (i) would be likely to cause, encourage or facilitate compulsive, obsessive, addictive or other unhealthy behaviours among children (including infinite scrolling, auto-playing of content, auto-queuing of content, publicly-visible tokens of affirmation, penalties for non-engagement, and real-time alerts and notifications),
 - (ii) could expose children to risks of serious harm, manipulation, sycophancy, or exploitation,
 - (iii) could expose children to illegal content or primary priority content,
 - (iv) could expose children to serious loss of privacy,
 - (v) could expose children to contact from strangers,
 - (vi) could enable a child user to view livestreamed video content (other than from regulated broadcasters), or to broadcast such content to other users who are not already known to that child user, or
 - (vii) could enable other users not known to them to identify the actual or approximate location of a child user (including by means of live location tracking);
 - (c) must mitigate harms identified in –
 - (i) the OFCOM Register of Risks,
 - (ii) the OFCOM Children's Register of Risks, and
 - (iii) the service's own risk assessments;
 - (d) must, at a minimum, enable access for independent researchers to key data for assessing the operation, risks and impacts of a service, including in relation to default settings data, data inputs and outputs, high-level algorithmic decision-making, content moderation and enforcement processes, internal risk and impact assessments, and technical tools such as APIs.
- (3) The regulations must set out what is an appropriate age at which a child may have restricted or full access to a service which does not meet the requirements set out in subsection (2), or any features or functionalities which do not meet those requirements; and may specify different appropriate ages in relation to different services, features, functionalities or restrictions.
- (4) A draft of the first such regulations must be laid before each House of Parliament within eight months of the day on which the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 is passed.
- (5) Subject to approval by a resolution of each House of Parliament, the first such regulations must be brought into effect within one year of the day on which the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 is passed.
- (6) When making the regulations described at subsection (1), the Secretary of State must make any necessary provisions or consequential amendments to ensure that –
- (a) the duties on the providers of internet services under those regulations are enforceable requirements for the purposes of section 131 and Part 7 of this Act, and
 - (b) section 49 (relationship between duties and codes of practice) of this Act does not apply to those duties.

- (7) In this section, a “relevant expert” means OFCOM, the Children’s Commissioner, any of the Chief Medical Officers of the United Kingdom, the Medical Royal Colleges, and any other persons from whom the Secretary of State considers it appropriate to seek relevant expert advice or input.

214C Supporting children’s understanding of harmful internet services

The Secretary of State must take action to ensure that, effective for the academic year commencing in September 2027, the national curriculum contains age-appropriate material to explain the reasons for children under an appropriate age being prevented or restricted from accessing different kinds of internet services, or features or functionalities of such services, including –

- (a) the implications for children’s wellbeing of their use of or exposure to services which do not meet the requirements described in subsection 214B(2), and
- (b) the range of business models, methods and motivations for and the implications of the online collection and processing of children’s data.

214D Offence and liability in relation to section 214B

- (1) It is an offence for a provider of an internet service to fail to use highly-effective age assurance measures and reasonable anti-circumvention measures to prevent or restrict access by children in the United Kingdom under an appropriate age to services which they provide to the extent required by regulations made in accordance with section 214B.
- (2) A person who commits an offence under this section is liable –
 - (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding the general limit in a magistrates’ court or a fine (or both);
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or a fine (or both).
- (3) Where an offence under subsection (1) is committed by a body, if the offence is committed with the consent or connivance of –
 - (a) a relevant person in relation to the body, or
 - (b) a person purporting to act in the capacity of a relevant person in relation to the body,
 the person (as well as the body) commits the offence and is liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.
- (4) In this section –
 - “body” means a body corporate, a partnership or an unincorporated association other than a partnership;
 - “relevant person”, in relation to a body, means –
 - (a) in the case of a body corporate other than one whose affairs are managed by its members, a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body;

- (b) in the case of a limited liability partnership or other body corporate whose affairs are managed by its members, a member who exercises functions of management with respect to it;
- (c) in the case of a limited partnership, a general partner (within the meaning given by section 3 of the Limited Partnerships Act 1907);
- (d) in the case of any other partnership, a partner;
- (e) in the case of an unincorporated association other than a partnership, a person who exercises functions of management with respect to it.

214E Private right of action in relation to regulations in accordance with section 214B

- (1) A child (“C”) has a right not to be subject to serious harm as a result of the making available to them of an internet service in contravention of regulations made in accordance with section 214B.
- (2) If, on an application by C or by a parent or legal guardian of C, a court is satisfied that there is a serious and imminent risk of an infringement of C’s right under subsection (1), a court may make an order for the purposes of securing compliance with that right, which requires the provider of the internet service in question—
 - (a) to take steps specified in the order, or
 - (b) to refrain from taking steps specified in the order.
- (3) If, on an application by C or by a parent or legal guardian of C, a court is satisfied that there has been an infringement of C’s right under subsection (1), a court may make an order for the purposes of providing the applicant with damages or compensation.

214F Review of OFCOM’s enforcement powers in relation to section 214B

- (1) Within six months of the day on which the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 is passed, the Secretary of State must review OFCOM’s powers, under Part 7 of this Act, to enforce regulations made in accordance with section 214B.
- (2) In conducting the review, the Secretary of State must give consideration to—
 - (a) the prevention of serious harm to children as users of regulated services, including with the use of powers set out in sections 144-147 (business disruption measures);
 - (b) the relevant views of—
 - (i) legal experts,
 - (ii) online safety experts,
 - (iii) relevant academics,
 - (iv) relevant charities, including children’s and women’s charities,
 - (v) OFCOM,
 - (vi) Parliament, and
 - (vii) other persons the Secretary of State deems relevant.””

MOTION B

LORDS AMENDMENT 102

Clause 56

102 Clause 56, page 118, line 32, at end insert –

- “(5A) The adjudicator may not issue a direction under this section requiring the governing body of a maintained school or the proprietor of an Academy to reduce the school’s published admission number unless satisfied that –
- 5 (a) the direction is necessary and proportionate to secure the efficient and effective use of education provision within the local authority area, and
- (b) the school –
- 10 (i) is not operating at or above its current published admission number, and
- (ii) has not, within the period of three years preceding the direction, been assessed by His Majesty’s Chief Inspector as providing education that is of a high quality.
- (5B) For the purposes of subsection (5A)(b)(ii), a school shall be regarded as providing education of a high quality where –
- 15 (a) the most recent inspection carried out under section 5 or section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (duty to inspect schools) concludes that the quality of education at the school is effective or better, or
- (b) any equivalent finding is made under an inspection framework that succeeds that in force at the passing of this Act.
- 20
- (5C) Before issuing a direction under this section requiring a reduction in a school’s published admission number, the adjudicator must consider whether the objective could more appropriately be achieved by means of changes to the pattern of provision in the area, including (where appropriate) the amalgamation or closure of schools, in accordance with any applicable statutory and departmental guidance on school organisation.
- 25
- (5D) In exercising functions under this section, the adjudicator must have regard to –
- 30 (a) the desirability of giving effect to parental preferences for schools, and
- (b) the need to avoid measures that would unduly restrict access to schools that are providing high-quality education or that are in strong demand from parents.”

COMMONS REASON

The Commons disagree to Lords Amendment 102 for the following Reason –

- 102A** *Because the Amendment imposes inappropriate restrictions on the scope of the adjudicator's powers to determine school admission numbers under clause 56 and the clause already provides for regulations to make provision about the matters the adjudicator must consider when making a determination about a school's admission number.*

LORDS INSISTENCE AND REASON

The Lords insist on their Amendment 102 for Reason 102B –

- 102B** *Because the Lords wish the Commons to consider the matter again.*

COMMONS INSISTENCE ON DISAGREEMENT AND AMENDMENTS IN LIEU

The Commons insists on its disagreement with the Lords in their Amendment 102, but proposes the following Amendments to the Bill in lieu of the Lords Amendment –

- 102C** Clause 56, page 118, line 33, leave out “may make provision”
- 102D** Clause 56, page 118, line 34, at beginning insert “must make provision”
- 102E** Clause 56, page 118, line 37, at beginning insert “may make provision”
- 102F** Clause 56, page 118, line 38, at end insert –
- “(6A) The provision made by virtue of subsection (6)(a) must include provision requiring the adjudicator to have regard to the potential impact of the determination on –
- (a) the quality of education provided at –
 - (i) the school in question, and
 - (ii) other schools within the relevant area, and
 - (b) the ability to give effect to parental preference for –
 - (i) the school in question, and
 - (ii) other schools within the relevant area.”
- 102G** Clause 56, page 118, line 41, at end insert –
- ““relevant area”, in relation to a school, has the same meaning as in section 88F (see subsection (4) of that section).”

LORDS INSISTENCE, DISAGREEMENT AND REASON

The Lords insist on their Amendment 102 and disagree with the Commons in their Amendments 102C to 102G in lieu for the following Reason –

- 102H** *Because the Lords wish the Commons to consider the matter again.*

COMMONS INSISTENCE, NON-INSISTENCE AND AMENDMENTS IN LIEU

The Commons insist on their disagreement with the Lords in their Amendment 102, but do not insist on their Amendments 102C to 102G and propose the following Amendments to the Bill as amendments in lieu of the Lords Amendment –

102J Clause 56, page 118, line 29, at end insert –

- “(4A) In making a determination under subsection (3) or (4), the adjudicator must take into account the potential impact of the determination on –
- (a) the quality of education provided at –
 - (i) the school in question, and
 - (ii) other schools within the relevant area, and
 - (b) the ability to give effect to parental preference for –
 - (i) the school in question, and
 - (ii) other schools within the relevant area.
- (4B) Before determining an admission number under subsection (3) or (4) that is lower than the admission number specified in the admission arrangements to which the objection or reference relates, the adjudicator must consult and have regard to the views of the following persons about alternatives to lowering the admission number –
- (a) the local authority for each school within the relevant area,
 - (b) the admission authority for the school in question, if different from the local authority for the school, and
 - (c) the Secretary of State.”

102K Clause 56, page 118, line 33, at end insert –

- “(za) specifying persons whom the adjudicator must consult before making a determination under subsection (3) or (4);”

102L Clause 56, page 118, line 34, after “specifying” insert “further”

102M Clause 56, page 118, line 41, at end insert –

- ““relevant area”, in relation to a school, has the same meaning as in section 88F (see subsection (4) of that section).”

B★ **Baroness Smith of Malvern to move, That this House do not insist on its Amendment 102, in respect of which the Commons have insisted on their disagreement, and do agree with the Commons in their Amendments 102J to 102M.**

MOTION C

LORDS AMENDMENT 106

After Clause 62

106 After Clause 62, insert the following new Clause –

“Prohibition of smartphones during the school day

- (1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, all schools in England must have a policy that prohibits the use and possession of smartphones by pupils during the school day.
- (2) Any policy implemented under subsection (1) –
- (a) may provide for exemptions from the policy, or for an alternative policy, for sixth form students, in so far as such exemptions or alternative policies do not negatively impact upon the wider policy,
 - (b) may provide for exemptions for medical devices,
 - (c) is to be implemented as the relevant school leader considers appropriate, and
 - (d) may, where implemented by a boarding school or residential school, include appropriate guidance for the use of certain devices during other periods in which their pupils are on school premises, subject to such policies safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in accordance with relevant national standards.
- (3) For the purposes of this section –
- “smartphone” means a mobile telephone that is able to connect to the internet and whose main purpose is not the support of learning or study;
 - “the school day” includes all time between the start of the first lesson period and the end of the final lesson period.”

COMMONS REASON

The Commons disagree to Lords Amendment 106 for the following Reason –

106A *Because the Commons does not consider the Amendment to be necessary in light of the existing guidance about mobile phones in schools.*

LORDS INSISTENCE AND REASON

The Lords insist on their Amendment 106 for Reason 106B –

106B *Because the Lords wish the Commons to consider the matter again.*

COMMONS INSISTENCE ON DISAGREEMENT AND AMENDMENTS IN LIEU

The Commons insists on its disagreement with the Lords in their Amendment 106, but proposes the following Amendments to the Bill in lieu of the Lords Amendment –

106C Page 50, line 25, at end insert the following new Clause –

“Guidance on use of mobile phones etc in schools in England

(1) In Part 10 of the Education Act 1996, after Chapter 2 insert –

“CHAPTER 2A

GUIDANCE ON MOBILE PHONES ETC: SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND

550C Guidance on use of mobile phones etc in schools in England

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations require the appropriate person for a school in England to have regard to guidance described in subsection (2) in exercising functions relating to the conduct of the school.
- (2) The guidance referred to in subsection (1) is guidance issued from time to time by the Secretary of State about registered pupils at schools having mobile phones and other personal interactive communication devices with them, and using them –
 - (a) during school hours, and
 - (b) on school premises.
- (3) Subsections (4) to (6) apply for the purposes of this section.
- (4) The “appropriate person” is –
 - (a) for the following kinds of school, the head teacher –
 - (i) a community, foundation or voluntary school;
 - (ii) a community or foundation special school;
 - (iii) a maintained nursery school;
 - (iv) a pupil referral unit;
 - (v) a school approved by the Secretary of State under section 342 (approval of non-maintained special schools);
 - (b) for any other kind of school, the proprietor.
- (5) “School hours”, in relation to a school, means any time between the start of the first school session on a school day and the end of the last school session on the same day.
- (6) References to mobile phones and other personal interactive communication devices do not include references to devices provided by or on behalf of the appropriate person for a school for use by registered pupils.
- (7) Regulations under this section may make provision disapplying the duty under section 89(2)(b) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (head teacher to have regard to notification or guidance given by governing body) to the extent that compliance with that duty would be inconsistent with guidance to which a head teacher is required to have regard by virtue of the regulations.”

- (2) In section 569 of that Act (regulations), in subsection (2A), for “or 550ZC(7)” substitute “, 550ZC(7) or 550C”.

106D Clause 66, page 124, line 4, at end insert –

“(aa) section (*Guidance on use of mobile phones etc in schools in England*);”

106E Title, line 5, after “uniform;” insert “about guidance relating to use of mobile phones and other interactive communication devices in schools;”

LORDS INSISTENCE, DISAGREEMENT AND REASON

The Lords insist on their Amendment 106 and disagree with the Commons in their Amendments 106C to 106E in lieu for the following Reason –

106F *Because the Lords wish the Commons to consider the matter again.*

COMMONS INSISTENCE, NON-INSISTENCE AND AMENDMENTS IN LIEU

The Commons insist on their disagreement with the Lords in their Amendment 106, but do not insist on their Amendments 106C to 106E and propose the following Amendments to the Bill as amendments in lieu of the Lords Amendment –

106G After Clause 29, insert the following new Clause –

“Guidance on use of mobile phones etc in schools in England

- (1) In Part 10 of the Education Act 1996, after Chapter 2 insert –

“CHAPTER 2A

GUIDANCE ON MOBILE PHONES ETC: SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND

550C Guidance on use of mobile phones etc in schools in England

- (1) The appropriate person for a school in England must have regard to guidance described in subsection (2) in exercising functions in relation to the conduct of the school.
- (2) The guidance referred to in subsection (1) is guidance issued from time to time by the Secretary of State about registered pupils at schools having mobile phones and other personal interactive communication devices with them, and using them –
 - (a) during school hours, and
 - (b) on school premises.
- (3) Subsections (4) to (6) apply for the purposes of this section.
- (4) “Appropriate person” means –
 - (a) for the following kinds of school, the head teacher –
 - (i) a community, foundation or voluntary school;
 - (ii) a community or foundation special school;

- (iii) a maintained nursery school;
 - (iv) a pupil referral unit;
 - (v) a school approved by the Secretary of State under section 342 (approval of non-maintained special schools);
- (b) for any other kind of school, the proprietor.
- (5) “School hours”, in relation to a school, means any time between the start of the first school session on a school day and the end of the last school session on the same day.
- (6) References to mobile phones and other personal interactive communication devices do not include references to devices provided by or on behalf of the appropriate person for a school for use by registered pupils.”
- (2) In section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (determination by head teacher of behaviour policy), after subsection (6) insert –
 - “(7) If a notification or guidance given under section 88(2)(b) to the head teacher of a relevant school in England is inconsistent with guidance to which head teachers of relevant schools in England are required to have regard by section 550C of EA 1996 (guidance on use of mobile phones etc), the duty under subsection (2)(b) does not apply to the extent of the inconsistency.””

106H Clause 66, page 124, line 11, at end insert –

“(ca) section (*Guidance on use of mobile phones etc in schools in England*);”

106J Title, line 5, after “uniform;” insert “about guidance relating to use of mobile phones and other interactive communication devices in schools;”

C★ **Baroness Smith of Malvern to move, That this House do not insist on its Amendment 106, in respect of which the Commons have insisted on their disagreement, and do agree with the Commons in their Amendments 106G to 106J.**

C1★ **Baroness Barran to move, as an amendment to Motion C, at end insert “, and do propose Amendments 106K to 106M as amendments to Commons Amendment 106G –**

106K In subsection (1), in inserted section 550C leave out subsection (2) and insert –

- “(2) The guidance referred to in subsection (1) is guidance issued from time to time by the Secretary of State –
 - (a) about the use by registered pupils of basic mobile telephones during school hours and on school premises, and
 - (b) prohibiting any access to smartphones and other internet-enabled personal interactive communication devices by registered pupils during school hours and on school premises.
- (2A) For the purposes of subsection (2)(b), access to smartphones and other internet-enabled personal interactive communication devices includes the storing of such a device within reasonable reach of the registered pupil, including in a bag, pocket or locker accessible to the registered pupil.”

- 106L** In subsection (1), after inserted section 550C(4) insert –
- “(4A) “Basic mobile telephone” means a mobile telephone or similar portable electronic device incapable of accessing the internet or other data networks, communication with which is restricted to the making and receiving of voice calls and the sending and receiving of SMS text messages only.
 - (4B) “Smartphone” means a mobile telephone or similar portable electronic device capable of accessing the internet or other data networks or of downloading, installing, running, or streaming digital content, applications, images, audio, video, text, or messages beyond ordinary voice telephony and SMS text messaging.”
- 106M** In subsection (1), in inserted section 550C(6) leave out “mobile phones and other personal interactive communication devices” and insert “basic mobile telephones, smartphones and other internet-enabled personal interactive communication devices””

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

MARSHALLED LIST OF MOTIONS

TO BE MOVED ON CONSIDERATION OF COMMONS REASONS AND AMENDMENTS

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