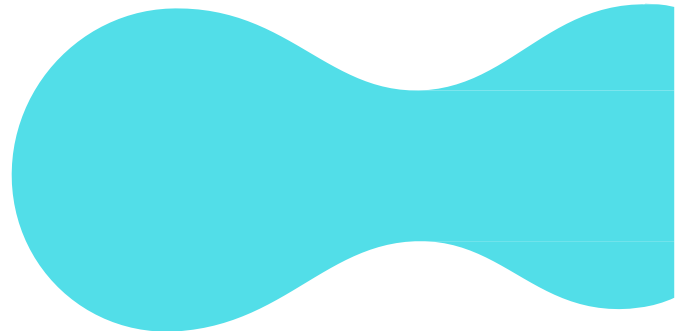
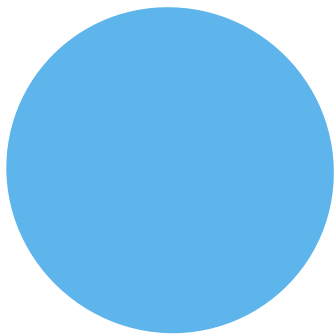




Global
Online Safety Regulators
Network

Annual Report 2024



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Note from the Chair

Digital regulation has commenced implementation over the last few years, with new online safety regulators emerging from most regions. The Global Online Safety Regulators Network was established two years ago to bring regulators working on online safety from jurisdictions around the world together. Following an impressive tenure by Australia's eSafety Commissioner, Ofcom took over as Chair of the Network in January 2024 and progress has continued towards our shared online safety goals.

The last two years have seen significant growth of the Network, with 25 members and observers from six continents now involved. This includes member regulators from Australia, Ireland, the Netherlands, Fiji, France, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. We have also seen an evolution in our work together and our plans going forward. This year the Network has published a Position Statement on Regulatory Coherence and a Regulatory Index, both of which set the foundation for our work on regulatory coherence. We created a Technology Working Group and an Education & Awareness Working Group, which each brought together members and observers to share experiences of work in these areas.

This first Annual Report reflects the commitment and collective effort of the Network members and observers this year and provides a solid foundation for the growth that we envision over the coming three years as set out in our inaugural Three-Year Strategic Plan. This Plan is a milestone for the Network as we mature and grow into a group that is an important voice for regulators within broader international online safety discussions.

It has been a real pleasure to be Chair of the Network this year. I also want to thank colleagues at the Film and Publication Board of South Africa for their leadership as Vice-Chair. As we look forward to 2025, Ofcom is proud to continue as the Chair of the Network for another year, with support from our new Vice-Chair Coimisiún na Meán. I see a bright future for this Network and Ofcom looks forward to continuing our leadership of the Global Online Safety Regulators Network.

Gill Whitehead,

GOSRN Chair (Ofcom)

Introduction

The Global Online Safety Regulators Network ('the Network') was launched in November 2022 and is the first dedicated forum for independent online safety regulators around the world. The Network enables regulators to share experience, expertise, and evidence, paving the way for coherent international approaches to online safety regulation. Our regulatory remits and duties overlap in many ways, offering us opportunities to build coherent approaches to specific areas of online safety and to learn from one another.

The mission of the Network is to develop regulatory coherence across jurisdictions and to promote compliance with rights-respecting online safety regulation, by leveraging the Network's role as the only global network of and for independent online safety regulators.

Our first Annual Report provides an overview of the work of the Network in 2024 and our plans for 2025.

Year in Review

This year has been one of experimentation and growth. The Network has grown in both members and observers, we have tested out working groups and more regular meetings with observers throughout the year, we have set the foundation for future work with key publications, and we have begun work towards building regulatory coherence across our regulatory frameworks.

1. Member and observer growth

2024 has been a year of significant growth for the Network. We have had three new members join us - Arcom (France), Council for Media Services (Slovakia), and Autoriteit Terroristische Content en Kinderpornografisch Materiaal, ATKM (Netherlands). We also welcomed 11 new observers - 5Rights, INHOPE, European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights, WeProtect Global Alliance, Family Online Safety Institute, Integrity Institute, Internet Watch Foundation, National Media Commission (Ghana), National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, National Communications Commission (Taiwan), and Red PaPaz. This growth has increased our geographic diversity, our base of expertise, and provides more diverse viewpoints within the Network. We now have participation from six continents.

2. Working Groups and Deep Dive Discussions

This year we stood up two working groups, a Technology Working Group and an Education and Awareness Working Group, underscoring our commitment to online safety best practices and regulatory coordination. Each brought together interested

members and observers to share their experiences on specific topics, to share learnings from work to date, and to make plans for future work together.

The Technology Working Group was chaired by Ofcom. In 2024 the group covered topics like age assurance, AI-generated child sexual abuse material, synthetic media, and encryption.

The Education and Awareness Working Group was chaired by the Australian eSafety Commissioner. In 2024 the group facilitated exchanges on best practice in engaging children, young people, parents and hard-to-reach cohorts. It also showcased GOSRN observers' work on education and awareness-raising.

The Network also began facilitating deep dive sessions with members on topics for regulatory coherence with experts from our respective organisations. The first such deep-dive focused on transparency reporting. Continuing these conversations will provide an opportunity for members to come together more regularly on agreed topics for collaboration.

We are now working to establish our new Working Groups for 2025 that aim to ramp-up our substantive work on collaboration and regulatory coherence.

3. **Publications**

This year the Network published two significant documents, to serve as a foundation for our work on international regulatory coherence and coordination in the years to come. Members published a [Position Statement on Regulatory Coherence and Coordination](#), explaining how the Network will practically pursue coherence over time. The Network also published the first iteration of a [Regulatory Index](#), which provides an overview of online safety rules in the jurisdictions of member countries and a comparative analysis of the ways in which our respective rules overlap and differ.

By the end of 2024, the Network will publish our first quarterly newsletter, featuring news from members and observers and regular updates on the work of the Network.

4. **External engagement**

In 2024 the Network was represented at a range of global forums and conferences around the world, including TrustCon (San Francisco, USA), the UNESCO International Conference on Digital Platform Governance (Dubrovnik, Croatia), the ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection (Bangkok, Thailand), the Family Online Safety Institute Annual Conference (Washington DC, USA) and the WeProtect Summit (Abu Dhabi, UAE). The Network has also engaged with a number of global stakeholders,

including the Christchurch Call Advisory Network, the Global Privacy Assembly, the Digital Trust and Safety Partnership, the Technology Coalition and others.

Looking forward to 2025

With two years of work behind us, this year the Network developed a Three-Year Strategic Plan to put in place the foundations for our future work. A summary of the Plan and this work is included in this section.

Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025

In 2025, Ofcom (UK) will continue as Chair of the Network. Coimisiún na Meán (Ireland) will take on the role of Vice-Chair.

Three-Year Strategic Plan (2025-2027)

The new Strategic Plan sets a collective mission and priorities for the coming three years, ensuring that we focus on activities and priorities that we share as members and observers. This Plan will provide a direction for the Network from 2025-2027.



A New Contact Group and Working Groups

From 2025, the Network will create a Contact Group, which will meet quarterly and will be open to all members and observers. The Contact Group will serve as a space for

participants to share research and initiatives with the wider group, consult other members and observers for feedback, and be a space for members and observers to initiate collaborations.

Additionally, as mentioned above, the Network will launch Working Groups which will work on specific regulatory coherence outputs. These Working Groups will be chaired by a member and will bring together a small cohort of members and observers to develop targeted outputs in an agile manner. In specific cases external experts may be invited to contribute to these Working Groups.

Leadership

From 2026 onwards, members have agreed that the Network will create an Executive Board with a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. Each Executive Board will have a term of two years and will be supported by a secretariat, hosted by the Chair.

With this new Three-Year Strategic Plan and agreement on our core operations going forward, the Global Online Safety Regulators Network will be on a strong footing to continue to deliver our shared mission – to develop regulatory coherence across jurisdictions and to promote compliance with rights-respecting online safety regulation. In doing this, we will leverage GOSRN’s role as the only global network of and for independent online safety regulators.

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December 2024

