

Minutes of the Meeting of the National Advisory Council for Online Safety, 22 November 2018

1. Adoption of minutes of meeting of 4 October 2018

- The minutes of the previous meeting of the Council on 4 October 2018 were agreed subject to minor administrative changes.
- **ACTIONS ARISING:**
 - Secretariat to finalise and publish minutes on the website of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (the **Department**).

2. Updates from subgroup chairpersons

- The chairperson (**Minister of State Seán Canney**) requested that the chairpersons of the research subgroup (**Brian O'Neill**) and the guidance subgroup (**Ian Power**) provide updates on their work to date.

a. Research subgroup

- Brian O'Neill gave an overview of the research subgroup's meeting on 1 November 2018. He noted the research element of the Council's terms of reference, that funding would be made available from the Department and that the subgroup had identified a need for up to date evidence relevant to the Irish context. He gave an overview of a draft proposal for research prepared by the subgroup to establish a baseline of Irish evidence which policy and decision makers could reference.
- The chairperson invited the wider Council to discuss the proposal. A number of issues were discussed, including in relation to the proposal's methodology, whether recommendations could be made by the Council on the base of its results and how best to communicate the results of the research, including the possibility of an event.

b. Guidance subgroup

- Ian Power gave an overview of guidance subgroup's meeting on 18 October 2018. He noted that the subgroup had provided preliminary views on the operation of the Government's single online repository/directory for online safety materials, www.besafeonline.ie, and that a response would be sought from the interdepartmental Sponsor's Group for the Action Plan for Online Safety 2018-2019.

- The Council members endorsed this approach.
- **ACTIONS ARISING:**
 - Secretariat to secure funding for the Council's draft research proposal from the Department.
 - Secretariat to facilitate a response by the Sponsor's Group to the Council's preliminary views on the operation of the www.besafeonline.ie portal.

3. Discussion item – Proposed approach to developing a practical guide for online safety in design for providers of online and interactive services

- The secretariat noted that Action 15 of the Action Plan for Online Safety called for the preparation of this practical guide. It was further noted that Department has prepared a proposed approach based on an analysis of the relevant UKCCIS guide and the views of the guidance subgroup.
- The chairperson sought the views of the Council on the proposed approach. A number of issues were discussed, notably that it needs to be emphasised that this would be an industry guide and not a user guide, that the creation of the guide would be a significant piece of work involving stakeholder engagement and that the proposed Q2 2019 timeframe for the practical guide to be completed was ambitious.
- The chairperson expressed his view that the quality of the practical guide should take precedence over the timeframe.
- **ACTION ARISING:**
 - Secretariat to raise the Council's concerns regarding the timeline associated with this action at the next meeting of the Sponsor's Group.

4. Discussion item – Draft work programme of the Council

- The chairperson noted that the views of the Council had been sought at its previous meeting and opened the floor to discussion. A number of issues were discussed, including reflecting the Council's role in identifying emerging issues in the draft work programme and work in relation to stakeholder consultation
- **ACTION ARISING:**

- Secretariat to amend draft work programme and circulate for agreement by email among the members of the Council before end-2018.

5. Discussion item – Progress Report of the Council

- The chairperson opened the discussion on the upcoming Progress Report of the Council and noted that, given the tight timeframe before the first report is due to be published (5 February 2019), the first report should be considered a progress report rather than an Annual Report . The chairperson invited the members of the Council to consider what should be included in the report.
- A number of issues were discussed, including whether the progress report should reflect only the work of the Council as a unit or the individual members as well.
- **ACTION ARISING:**
 - The members of the Council are to provide their observations on the form and content of the upcoming progress report to the Secretariat.
 - The Secretariat will prepare a draft progress report on the basis of contributions from the members of the Council in January 2019.

6. Presentations

- Three presentations were given to the Council:
 - A presentation of the Safer Internet Centre Programme by the Department of Justice & Equality.
 - A presentation by Hotline.ie on its Annual Report 2017.
 - A presentation by the Secretariat on the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive
- **ACTION ARISING:**
 - Secretariat to circulate the presentations to the members of the Council.

7. Date of Next Meeting

- The date of the next meeting was agreed as 23 January 2019.

8. AOB

- Declan Daly (**An Garda Síochana**) asked to give a presentation at the next meeting of the Council on online threats.
- Anna Morgan (**Data Protection Commission**) asked to give a presentation at the next meeting of the Council on its upcoming public consultation on children and data protection issues.

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