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Will the UK become the most impenetrable digital fortress on the planet?



Sources: Rebellion

The UK aims to be the "safest digital space in the world" with the passage of the [Online Safety Bill \(OSB\)](#). Proponents argue that this initiative will make the UK "the safest place in the world to browse online". Will it be so?

The OSB would grant new powers to prevent "child abuse." Among them, it would allow Britain's telecoms regulator, Ofcom, to ask UK tech companies to provide access to the information of any internet user around the world. This would include *end-to-end encryption* (E2EE) encrypted files and messages.

That is, the OSB would facilitate government access, through backdoors, to user information for the "protection of *minors*".

Questions arise about the management and control of these "back doors" that will have to be protected. Enabling "backdoors" in communication systems, including encrypted ones, poses a huge security risk. Therefore, although the initial intention of the OSB seems to be the protection of minors, paradoxically, these measures could introduce additional risks.

These doors, far from guaranteeing security, could unleash dangers that erode the privacy and security of any user and could become true "Pandora's boxes".

They are surprising measures and hardly justifiable from the point of view of cybersecurity, are we facing clumsiness, negligence or in the background there are covert intentions of surveillance?

Encrypted messaging companies have expressed their strong opposition to the new measures and [have warned that they would leave the British market if these regulations compromise the security of their users.](#)

In addition, to increase the controversy, the OSB could require online content platforms to remove content that the British government deems "inappropriate" for minors. The concern arises: what criteria will define what is inadequate and who will be responsible for doing it? The measure dangerously resembles censorship.

Disguised as a noble cause, the protection of children and adolescents, the OSB raises serious questions about its implementation and real objectives. These laws generate inevitable uncertainties, do they seek protection, are they irresponsible or do they basically intend indiscriminate surveillance?

The British legal system is a global benchmark that ends up being replicated in other countries. The United States and Australia are debating similar laws. We await with concern the repercussions of these legal proposals.

Laws such as the OSB can break the delicate balance between protection and fundamental freedoms. They are one more step in an unstoppable advance towards global mass surveillance.

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