

Tutorial 6 Risk and responsibility – Online Safety Bill, freedom of speech, defamation

Working in groups

1. If you were working for or starting up a company that was developing or running a user-to-user service. Consider how you might:
 - a. Comply with the Online Safety Act's requirements for children. What would you have to do?
 - b. Comply with the Online Safety Act's requirements for adults
 - c. How easy would it be to implement those checks? What would be the trickiest elements?

2. In December 2017 on a trip to Japan, Logan Paul visited the Aokigahara, a forest by Mount Fuji that is infamously referred to as Japan's suicide forest. While wearing a green *Toy Story* hat, Paul filmed himself walking through the forest, playing up the "spooky," death-related aspects of the forest, and included uncensored footage of a man who appeared to have hanged himself. The video received 6 million views on its first day, but Paul deleted it after viewers expressed outrage at his decision to include a video of the seemingly deceased man. Following public outrage, YouTube removed Paul from its exclusive Google Preferred advertising tier.
 - a. What consequences should Logan Paul face?
 - b. Did YouTube take appropriate action?
 - c. Was YouTube breaching Logan Paul's freedom of speech?
 - d. Was an offence committed under UK law?

3. A group of software engineering graduates Ali, Bee and Cam join a well-known software company after graduating. While they were at University they developed an app designed by a charity to encourage young people to be more active, and had won a prize. Their new company DSoft, wanted them to develop the product further and add it to their suite of apps. While they were at work Ali tells his team that he did most of the work himself and that Cam was completely incompetent and happy to copy code from anywhere rather than write it himself. Cam tells his team that although Ali was ok, Bee didn't contribute much as she had family problems. When Bee heard these rumours she used the Teams chat to say that Cam was incompetent and to ask Ali about it. After hearing these stories their manager decided to stop the project, imagining the software wasn't very good. Cam was so upset about this he went onto Instagram to complain about it, naming the manager and the company. He then copied the software to a public repo on GitHub so anyone could develop it further.
 - a. Did any defamation happen in this situation? What? Could anyone make a legal case?
 - b. Identify any other potential legal problems
 - c. What professional issues are raised by this case?