



Online Safety (User Empowerment Tools) Determination 2026

I, Anika Wells, Minister for Communications, make the following determination.

Dated 2026

Anika Wells **[DRAFT ONLY—NOT FOR SIGNATURE]**
Minister for Communications

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Part 1—Preliminary

^{^1} Name

This instrument is the *Online Safety (User Empowerment Tools) Determination 2026*.

^{^2} Commencement

- (1) Each provision of this instrument specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Provisions	Commencement	Date/Details
1. The whole of this instrument	At the same time as Schedule 2 of the <i>Online Safety Amendment (Digital Duty of Care) Act 2026</i> .	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this instrument.

- (2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this instrument. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this instrument.

^{^3} Authority

This instrument is made under subsection 27A(1) of the *Online Safety Act 2021*

^{^4} Definitions

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the Act, including the following:

- (a) age-restricted social media platform;
- (b) recommender feature;
- (c) user empowerment tool.

In this instrument:

Act means the *Online Safety Act 2021*.

following-only feed: see subsection ^{^6}(5).

follows: see subsection ^{^6}(3).

preferred feed: see subsection ^{^6}(2).

Part 2—User empowerment tools

^5 Minimum standards for user empowerment tools

User empowerment tools must be designed, offered and managed in accordance with the following standards:

- (a) users must be made aware of user empowerment tools in an obvious and straightforward manner;
- (b) user empowerment tools must be:
 - (i) accessible; and
 - (ii) easy to use; and
 - (iii) prominently available on the service; and
 - (iv) functional; and
 - (v) available on an ongoing basis;
- (c) user empowerment tools must use clear and simple language;
- (d) user empowerment tools must allow users to control design features of the service in a way that supports a positive, safe and healthy experience;
- (e) user empowerment tools must not make the service harder to use or navigate, or affect the broader functionality of the service;
- (f) alternative feed options such as following-only feeds must not make the service harder to use or navigate;
- (g) use of user empowerment tools must not be discouraged, whether explicitly or implicitly;
- (h) users of user empowerment tools must be provided with a similar experience to users who have not enabled those tools;
- (i) a user's settings for user empowerment tools must not change, either during a single use of the service or when the service is used from time to time, without the user making an explicit choice to change those settings.

^6 Choice of preferred feed

- (1) A social media or an age-restricted social media platform that offers users of the service user-generated content through a recommender feature must provide a user empowerment tool that allows users to determine their preferred feed.
- (2) A **preferred feed** is the feed through which a user receives material:
 - (a) chosen by algorithms based on user profiling; or
 - (b) from accounts the user follows.
- (3) A user **follows** an account if the user subscribes to, or connects with, the account in order to automatically receive content from the account.
- (4) One of the options for the preferred feed must be a following-only feed.
- (5) A **following-only feed** is a feed that does not include material other than material from accounts the user chooses to follow.

Section ^7

- (6) A following-only feed may include advertising material, including advertising material from an account the user does not follow.

Note: A following-only feed must not make the service, or the feed, harder to use or navigate: see paragraphs 5(1)(e) and (f).

^7 Initial prompt for preferred feed

- (1) This section applies if, on the commencement of this section, a user of a social media service or an age-restricted social media platform has not chosen their preferred feed.
- (2) When the user next accesses the service in a logged in state, the user must receive a prompt for the user to choose their preferred feed.

Note: Settings for user empowerment tools must not change without the user explicitly choosing to change those settings: see paragraph 5(1)(i).