

Online Information Advisory Committee minutes 9(26)

Publication Minutes of the ninth meeting of the Online Information Advisory Committee held on 27 February 2026 at Riverside House, London SE1 9HA

Present

Richard Allan	Chair and Ofcom Board Member
Jeff Howard	Committee Member
Will Moy (online)	Committee Member
Mark Scott	Committee Member
Devika Shanker-Grandpierre	Committee Member

Apologies

Elisabeth Costa	Committee Member
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In attendance

Colleagues from the Online Safety Group (OSG)
Colleague from the Strategy and Research Group
Governance Manager

Item 1: Welcome and declaration of members' interests

1. The Chair welcomed Members and attendees to the ninth meeting. Mark Scott confirmed that this would be his last meeting. The Chair and Members expressed their thanks to Mark for his valuable contribution to the work of the Committee. In due course, consideration would be given to additional Member recruitment.
2. No new declarations of interest were noted.

Item 2: Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2026.

3. Subject to minor amendment for accuracy, the Committee **APPROVED** the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January.

Item 3: Chair's update

4. The Chair flagged Ofcom's second pre-election stakeholder event. It would take place in Edinburgh the following week and the Chair would attend with a member of the Committee and OSG colleagues.

5. At an earlier meeting, the Committee had discussed a draft paper focussed on a new statistical method to run Randomised Controlled Trials. It was noted that the [Helping Users to Assess Content Online - Discussion Paper](#) and a related [technical report](#) had been published earlier in the week.
6. Members noted that there had been heightened public debate about social media use by under-16s; and that earlier in February, Oliver Griffiths, Ofcom's Online Safety Group Director, had been appointed to the Ofcom Board.

Item 4: Media Literacy and Informed Voices

7. Members were briefed on Ofcom's work on media literacy, with a focus on its duties under the Online Safety Act 2023; the media literacy 3-year strategy up to 2027 (its three thematic pillars: Research, Evidence and Evaluation; Engaging Platforms; and People and Partnerships); work on critical thinking and user understanding of online content; and the [Dismiss](#) campaign (commissioned for the 2024 UK General Election).
8. The Committee was also briefed on Ofcom's current Informed Voices programme to help support young people, particularly first-time voters, to navigate online content relating to elections. Parent Zone had been recently commissioned to run the 4-year programme, working with local and national partner.
9. Issues discussed by the Committee included the importance of freedom of expression; media literacy education in schools; scale and resources to 'shift the dial' on media literacy; whether there was a focus on the 16+ age-group; and the nature of Ofcom media literacy collaborations.
10. Members **NOTED** the discussion. The Committee would continue to engage with Ofcom's work on media literacy and would welcome sight of materials produced for any future online campaigns.

Item 5: Elections discussion and advice note

11. The Committee continued discussion from the previous meeting, to scope out research on threats to elections as the potential topic for its third area of work that would form advice to Ofcom.
12. Members exchanged views on a wide range of issues to refine the focus of this work. This included the role of generative AI; online abuse; the potential wide range in the quality of available research; how risks may have changed over time and the availability of evidence on this; and the nature of Ofcom's Online Safety powers as they might relate to harms that can be relevant to elections.
13. The Committee **NOTED** the discussion and would check-in with the literature review as it progressed. The Committee would then write its advice note informed by the review.

Item 6: Any other business
14. There was no other business.
Item 7: Date of the next meeting
15. The next Committee meeting would be on 10 April 2026.