Consultation response

Field	Value
Responder	Online Dating and Discovery Association
Responder Type	organisation
Org Role	Chief Executive Officer
Org Type	Other
Other Type	Trade Association

Volume 1: Context

3. Online advertising ecosystem

Q1: Is there any information or evidence you hold that could enhance our understanding of the online advertising ecosystem?

The Online Dating and Discovery Association (ODDA) believes that Ofcom's understanding of the online advertising ecosystem is valid. We are particularly pleased to see reference to the lack of reporting as an issue in relation to this particular type of crime.

4. Causes and impacts of fraudulent advertising

Q2: Do you have any comments on Ofcom's assessment of the causes and impacts of fraudulent advertising? Do you think we have missed anything important in our analysis? Please provide evidence to support your answer.

No response

Q3: Do you agree with the examples of risky characteristics we have provided? Please provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

We broadly agree, but think that the section on brands would benefit from including a specific paragraph about fraudsters impersonating less well-known brands, public sector organisations and charities. We know from speaking to our members, that there was a spike in fake adverts in the weeks following the introduction of age assurance that impersonated legitimate age verification providers in an attempt to direct legitimate users into handing over sensitive personal data.

5. Our approach to developing Codes measures

Q4: Do you agree with our proposed approach? Please provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

The ODDA welcomes the publication of the draft Codes and agrees with the approach set out in the supporting documents. In particular, we think your three-step process in section 5.20 is a sensible and pragmatic approach as well as being proportionate.

6. Combined impact assessment

Q5: Do you consider the overall burden on the service providers in scope of our proposed measures to be proportionate? Please provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response

Volume 2: Risk, governance and control

2. Advertising intermediaries

Q6: Do you agree with our proposal? Please provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response

Q7: We have included two illustrative examples of when and how this measure may be applied, and what 'all reasonable endeavours' might look like. Do you have any comments on these examples, and do you have any additional examples of how providers could work with or require intermediaries to implement safety measures in circumstances where they have insufficient control? Please provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response

3. Fraud indicator assessment

Q8: Do you agree with our proposal? Please provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

We think the approach is sensible and its inclusion in the codes welcome. Our only observation on this particular part of the codes is in relation to information sharing and whether in-scope services should be actively encouraged to share information with other in-scope services.

Q9: Do you think there are other information sources providers should consider in order to understand how fraudulent advertising manifests on their service? If so, what information and why would they need to consider it?

No response

4. Governance and accountability

Q10: Do you agree with our proposals? Please confirm which proposed measure your views relate to and provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response

5. Testing advertisement generation tools

Q11: Do you agree with our proposal? Please provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response

Volume 3: Ensuring account integrity

2. Account checks and actions

Q12: Do you agree with our proposal? Please provide any arguments and supporting evidence. Where your feedback relates to a specific check we are proposing providers should carry out, please make this clear. These are :

No response

Q12.A: verification that advertising account holders work for, or on behalf of, the individual or organisation they are advertising

No response

Q12.B: checks and actions to prevent banned advertising account holders returning

No response

Q12.C: checks for accounts with indicators that there is a material risk they will post fraudulent advertising so that restrictions can be applied to them

No response

Q12.D: repeat checks where there are relevant changes identified on an account.

No response

Q13: Are you aware of any other account checks and actions providers could do to protect users from fraudulent advertising? Please provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response

3. Preventing fraudulent financial services advertising

Q14: Do you agree with our proposal? Please provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response

4. Countering account takeover

Q15: Do you agree with our proposals? Please confirm which proposed measure your views relate to and provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

The ODDA agrees with the approach and welcomes the inclusion of a sector on account takeover as part of the Codes. We see this tactic being increasingly used by bad actors which emphasizes the importance of ensuring a multi-layered approach to security to maintain trust.

Q16: Do you have any evidence about account takeover that could inform our assessment, including how frequently it occurs or its impact?

No response

5. Advertising bans

Q17: Do you agree with our proposal? Please provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response

Q18: Are you aware of any additional exceptional circumstances in which it may be proportionate for providers to reverse advertising bans?

No response

6. Account appeals

Q19: Do you agree with our proposals? Please confirm which proposed measure your views relate to and provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response

Volume 4: Moderation

2. Advertising moderation

Q20: Do you agree with our proposals? Please confirm which proposed measure your views relate to and provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response

3. Terms of service and publicly available statements

Q21: Do you agree with our proposals? Please confirm which proposed measure your views relate to and provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response

4. Advertising complaints (including DRC for trusted flaggers)

Q22: Do you agree with our proposals? Please confirm which proposed measure your views relate to and provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response

5. Ad libraries

Q23: Do you agree with our proposal? Please provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response

Q24: Do you agree with the principles, functionalities and information categories which we have included in the proposed measure? Please explain your reasoning and, if possible, provide supporting evidence.

No response

Q25: Do you have any evidence or insights on the process of building an ad library from scratch or adjusting an ad library to align with the proposed measure, and how long that process would take?

No response

Additional questions

Q26: Do you agree with our Equality Impact Assessment? Please provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response

Q27: Do you agree with our Welsh language assessment? Please provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response

Q28: Do you agree with our proposals? Please provide any arguments and supporting evidence.

No response