

Welsh Language

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The proposal does not seem to match the requirements of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Schedule 6 of the MWA (2011) includes

"Persons exercising, on behalf of the Crown, functions conferred by or under an Act or Measure ("Personau sy'n arfer, ar ran y Goron, swyddogaethau a roddir gan neu o dan Ddeddf neu Fesur")"

Furthermore one of the purposes of the notifications and copyright procedure is clearly

"to support, improve, promote or provide access to heritage, culture, sport or recreational activities,"

and also

"Persons overseeing the regulation of a profession, industry or other similar sphere of activity."

for the purpose of schedule 5. Therefore any notifications should not just be in plain English they must be bilingual as must any tribunal.

The ISPs are also "Qualifying persons who provide the public with telecommunications services."

Appeal Time

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This is unworkable. The timescale for receiving a CIR is going to be

- Review material
- Send data protection demand to the ISP involved
- Wait 40 days
- Potentially raise each case with the information commissioners office

before it is possible for the subscriber to make an informed decision as to whether they should appeal and to possess the necessary information for the case. Failing to allow this is asking cases to be dragged off under HRA 'right to a fair trial' clauses.

Therefore at minimum the timer must stop at the point the consumer is waiting for further information from the ISP, rights holder or any other appropriate body. That should not be *after* an appeal is filed but before the decision is made or made one. The DP and other inquiries will eliminate many mistakes and reduce the number of tribunals that are required - saving time and money and promoting a better process.

Protection Of Public Services

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The code still fails to distinguish between different userbases and userbase sizes. Operators of free wifi services will be systematically punished to the benefit of large corporations such as BT and Virgin. Nothing in the DE Act gave Ofcom permission to attack open wifi networks and distort competition, so the code creates intentional effects outside of OFCOM's permitted remit.

Open wifi networks, and any public networks such as Universities and Libraries should not accumulate CIRs in the normal way as they are service *providers* and should fall under the ISP rules. Those filing CIRs will be aware if a large number of them are going to a particular location such as a Wifi operator and that provides them the same evidence they have when dealing with smaller ISPs where they will also need to pursue a Norwich Pharmaceutical order.

Fraud

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The code entirely fails to consider the resulting fraudulent activity (fake notices, fake tribunals, increased fake threats from alleged rights holders to 'pay up or we send a CIR' . Lists of those notified will inevitably leak and will allow the targeting of those who have most to fear.

There needs to be an effective strategy to mitigate these risks, prevent fraudulent notices and avoid this kind of abuse.

Costs

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The £20 fee is basically an invitation to the copyright companies to conduct legalised protection rackets. It also discriminates against the poorer, and owing to the current economic patterns in the UK also therefore discriminatory against women and minority racial groups. If there is a need to avoid gratuitous appeals then the tribunal should have the right to assign costs to the appellant if they bring a case without merit, rather than if they bring a case they lose which had merit.

There is an additional major cost implication for telecommunication providers you have not factored into the analysis. Any user receiving a notification and disagreeing with it may open a dispute under the existing telecom arbitration arrangements. This imposes a large cost on the telco provider each time, and it would be reasonable to expect many customers to take this free path in preference to an appeal.

In addition publication on a list could be defamatory to the person accused if the list is not clearly *alleged* infringers. As the defamation law is the express will of parliament and the DE act is subsidiary to this OFCOM have no ability to change this fact. Likewise unless so marked it would breach EU data protection law requirements to keep accurate data.