

I am most concerned that Ofcom and the Government have refused to create an exception for wifi providers. As a result, the Code leaves businesses and public bodies that provide wifi facing allegations of copyright infringement and the costs of dealing with the powers of the Act. Libraries, other educational bodies and hospitality businesses have said they may restrict or withdraw wifi provision if this does not change.

As a user of public wifi I am concerned as to how this will affect me and wifi providers.

Wifi providers still don't know whether they will be held liable for the behaviour of their customers. The revised Code does not address their situation directly, leaving them unclear as to whether they will be considered 'subscribers' (and therefore subject to allegations of copyright infringement) or not. The only way they can avoid this is by negotiating with their ISPs, convincing them they are wifi providers. It is complicated and time-consuming, and it is not even certain that this will see them avoid the powers of the Act. They could be accused of infringement for something somebody else did on their network - with little chance of a successful appeal.

This is despite repeated warnings from libraries, businesses and MPs about the precarious position wifi providers are being placed in.

Wifi is an increasingly important part of the UK's internet infrastructure. The Government should not be putting that at risk so cheaply.

I think Ofcom should create a carve out for public bodies and businesses that provide Wifi to their customers, to ensure that WiFi provision is still as widely available as possible.