

YouGov Survey Results

Sample Size: 2125

Fieldwork: 31st December 2020 - 4th January 2021



Total

For the following question, by "child abuse online" we mean when child abuse images are shared on social networking and messaging services. It also includes situations where children are approached online by adults who want to befriend them for the purpose of sexual abuse (i.e. grooming). Child abuse online can also include children potentially being harmed by viewing, for example, websites promoting self-harm.

Thinking about child abuse online and the responsibility of social networking and messaging services...

To what extent would you support or oppose the following? (Please select one option on each row)

Social networking and messaging services having a technical ability to detect child abuse images on their sites (e.g. to actively find child abuse images)

Unweighted base	2125
Base: All UK adults	2125
Strongly support	79%
Tend to support	13%
Tend to oppose	1%
Strongly oppose	1%
Don't know	6%
Net Support	92%
Net Oppose	2%

Social networking and messaging services having a technical ability to detect adults sending sexual images to children on their services

Unweighted base	2125
Base: All UK adults	2125
Strongly support	76%
Tend to support	15%
Tend to oppose	1%
Strongly oppose	1%
Don't know	7%
Net Support	91%
Net Oppose	2%

There is already technology available to scan the internet and social networks and messaging services for child abuse images. It can also scan the internet and messaging services to detect when children are being befriended for the purpose of sexual abuse (i.e. grooming). Technology is used to detect crime and help law enforcement. However, there are concerns that social networks and messaging services using this technology imposes privacy rights.

Thinking about the information you have just read above...

Which ONE, if any, of the following statements comes closest to your view?

Unweighted base	2125
Base: All UK adults	2125
The right to privacy on social media is more important than the ability to identify child abuse images	4%
The right to privacy and the ability to identify child abuse images are both equally important	32%
The ability to identify child abuse images is more important than the right to privacy	55%
Don't know	8%
Prefer not to say	2%

A number of other companies, including Google, also plan to roll out end-to-end encryption on their messaging services. This will make it impossible for text or images sent via direct message to be viewed by anyone other than the sender and recipient. As a reminder, those in favour say this is important to protect citizens' right to privacy online. However, this will mean that they are unable to identify child abuse imagery and grooming over messaging services.

With this in mind, to what extent would you support or oppose the following?

Social media and messaging services using end-to-end encryption

Unweighted base	2125
Base: All UK adults	2125
Strongly support	10%
Tend to support	23%
Tend to oppose	19%
Strongly oppose	11%
Don't know	35%
Prefer not to say	2%
Net Support	33%
Net Oppose	30%

Social media and messaging services using end-to-end encryption if and when they can ensure children's safety is protected

Unweighted base	2125
Base: All UK adults	2125
Strongly support	27%
Tend to support	36%
Tend to oppose	6%
Strongly oppose	4%
Don't know	26%
Prefer not to say	2%
Net Support	62%
Net Oppose	10%

Cell Contents (Column Percentages)