

Gender and the Internet of Things ('IoT') Futureproofing Online Harms legislation

The number of internet-connected devices is growing rapidly. One estimate¹ suggests there will be 500 billion internet-connected devices by 2030. The IoT is the network of these connected devices.

The IoT provides benefits for modern life, but it also creates opportunities for new types of harm. Perpetrators of domestic abuse can misuse features to monitor and control their victims. For example, internet-connected video cameras (such as on doorbells) or wearable watches with integrated GPS tracking technology can allow victims to be spied upon by perpetrators. **The IoT enables three new types of crime that should be within scope of new Online Harms Legislation:**

a) Cyber stalking

Harassment taking place on or via the internet.

b) Coercive and controlling behaviour using IoT

Acts of abuse to harm, threaten or frighten a victim. This could involve the denying access to controls for heating, lighting, locks and security systems