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**From:** Julie Inman Grant  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 March 2025 3:46 PM  
**To:** DL - eSafety SEG Members; DL - eSafety International Engagement Section; DL - eSafety Industry Compliance and Enforcement Branch  
**Subject:** FW: The UK tries to shape the AI world order — again [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Interesting!!!

Mar 10, 2025

[View in browser](#)

# **POLITICO** Digital Future Daily

BY TOM BRISTOW AND DANIELLA CHESLOW

*With help from John Hendel*



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer delivers a speech on January 13, setting out the government's roadmap to harness AI. | Getty Images

**Not that long ago, with the world panicking** about potential runaway AI, the U.K. stepped up to lead on reining in the new technology.

Former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak convened an AI Safety Summit in Bletchley Park — the first major global AI policy summit anywhere — featuring [former Vice President Kamala Harris](#) touting the risks of algorithmic bias in the technology.

What a difference an election — or two — makes.

**With President Donald Trump's White House** all-in on accelerating AI technology and [dropping safety regulations](#), and a fresh Labour government in the U.K. anxious to keep good relations with the United States, a new AI world order is quickly emerging — one that [Britain wants to help build](#).

During his recent visit to the White House, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer [previewed a tech-focused deal](#) between the two nations — in language that seemed very tuned to a pitch Vice President JD Vance had [just made at the Paris AI Action Summit](#).

**Now, our POLITICO U.K. colleague** Tom Bristow has gotten a peek at a British government document with new details of London's ideas for a trade pact with the U.S. It offers a look at how a new global AI consensus could take shape — with much less worry about safety, and much more concern about security and tech dominance.

**What's in the document?** The paper outlines the pitch the U.K. plans to make to the U.S., and it echoes rhetoric used by Vance and Trump that countries must choose whether to side with or against the U.S. on tech policy. It talks about combining British and American “strengths” so that Western democracies can win the tech race — language that British Technology Secretary Peter Kyle has increasingly started to use in recent weeks — and signals ever-closer alignment with the U.S. on tech.

The document outlines Britain's ambitions for an “economic partnership” on technology. It pitches the case by pointing out that the U.S. and U.K. are the only two allies in the world with trillion-dollar

tech industries, and emphasizes the importance of Western democracies beating rivals to cutting-edge breakthroughs.

It leans into “moonshot missions” in three areas relevant to national security — AI, quantum and space — as an initial phase of the deal, but doesn’t go into detail. It also mentions collaboration on R&D, talent and procurement without going into the terms. British officials see it as a long-term play, with this document reflecting its early pitch.

**What is not in there?** Britain’s pitch avoids mention of thorny issues like tariffs and regulation. Tariffs could come to a head as soon as Wednesday, when 25 percent steel and aluminum tariffs are due to come into effect. U.K. negotiators are [pressing for a last-minute exemption](#).

Also not in it: There is nothing in the document on nearer-term wins like a data deal, a digital trade agreement or specific investments. But by discussing procurement, the British pitch document opens the door to deals between the U.K. government and U.S. tech firms. Both [Scale AI](#) and [Anthropic are hiring](#) U.K. staff to sell their technology to the public sector.

**And a national rebrand:** Republicans and friendly Big Tech executives have attacked the U.K. and Europe’s content moderation regulation as “censorship”. In late February, House Judiciary Chair Jim Jordan of Ohio sent Britain a [sternly worded letter over its Online Safety Act](#). Activists in the U.K. fear London will water down the law to secure a deal with the U.S., despite the government insisting it is not up for negotiation.

To sidestep the issue, Britain is pitching its legislation to the White House as a move against pedophiles, terrorists and online criminals rather than anything to do with freedom of speech.

(While the pitch document has little to say about the Online Safety Act, the law is already making an impact in Britain: from Monday, companies will be required to remove illegal content or risk high fines. Kyle, the tech secretary, [told LBC radio Monday](#) he’s already thinking of additional legislation and pushed back against suggestions that the

U.S. might force the U.K. to water down its tech legislation. “Our online safety standards are not up for negotiation,” he said.)

**Have we seen this before?** The pitch echoes some of the [Atlantic Declaration](#) that Sunak and former President Joe Biden signed in June 2023. That agreement resolved to “to partner to build resilient, diversified, and secure supply chains and reduce strategic dependencies.” The latest iteration drops clean energy and health from the agenda.

**Where do we go from here?** Nothing in the deal is final or public, and it may take months for London and Washington to find agreement.

Some British observers are getting nervous their government may roll over too fast to American tech interests. Last week [the BBC wrote to the Competition and Markets Authority \(CMA\)](#), the U.K. antitrust regulator, asking it to intervene so Apple and Google have less of a chokehold on app stores and cautioning that the companies’ use of AI could bite into the BBC’s bottom line.

The complaint came days after the [CMA closed an inquiry](#) into Microsoft and OpenAI’s partnership.

And the deal could spell trouble for Brussels. Alongside his note to London, House Judiciary Chair Jordan also sent a [howler to the EU](#) over its Digital Services Act, which he called “censorship”. Federal Communications Commission chair [Brendan Carr blasted the DSA](#) last week in a speech before Barcelona’s Mobile World Congress. Trump has threatened to hit the U.K. and the EU with retaliatory tariffs for tech regulation he believes might unfairly target U.S. tech companies.

Brussels tech chief [Henna Virkkunen defended the EU’s regulation](#), saying it was “content-agnostic”. But if the U.K. offers to slim down its tech rules to please Washington, Europe will be left to make its defense alone.

#### CALL WAITING

**Robert Heinlein’s old adage** that “[the moon is a harsh mistress](#)” proved especially true for Nokia this month. The telecom company’s



Bell Labs division has been attempting to make the first cellular phone call on the moon as part of a partnership with NASA but sadly fell short during a recent lunar mission.

“Unfortunately, Nokia was unable to make the first cellular call on the Moon due to factors beyond our control that resulted in extreme cold temperatures on our user device modules,” Noka [wrote in an update](#) over the weekend.

Still, Nokia “delivered the first cellular network to the Moon and validated key aspects of the network’s operation,” the company added. It argued the mission entailed “important steps toward proving that cellular technologies can meet the mission-critical communications needs of future lunar missions and space exploration.”

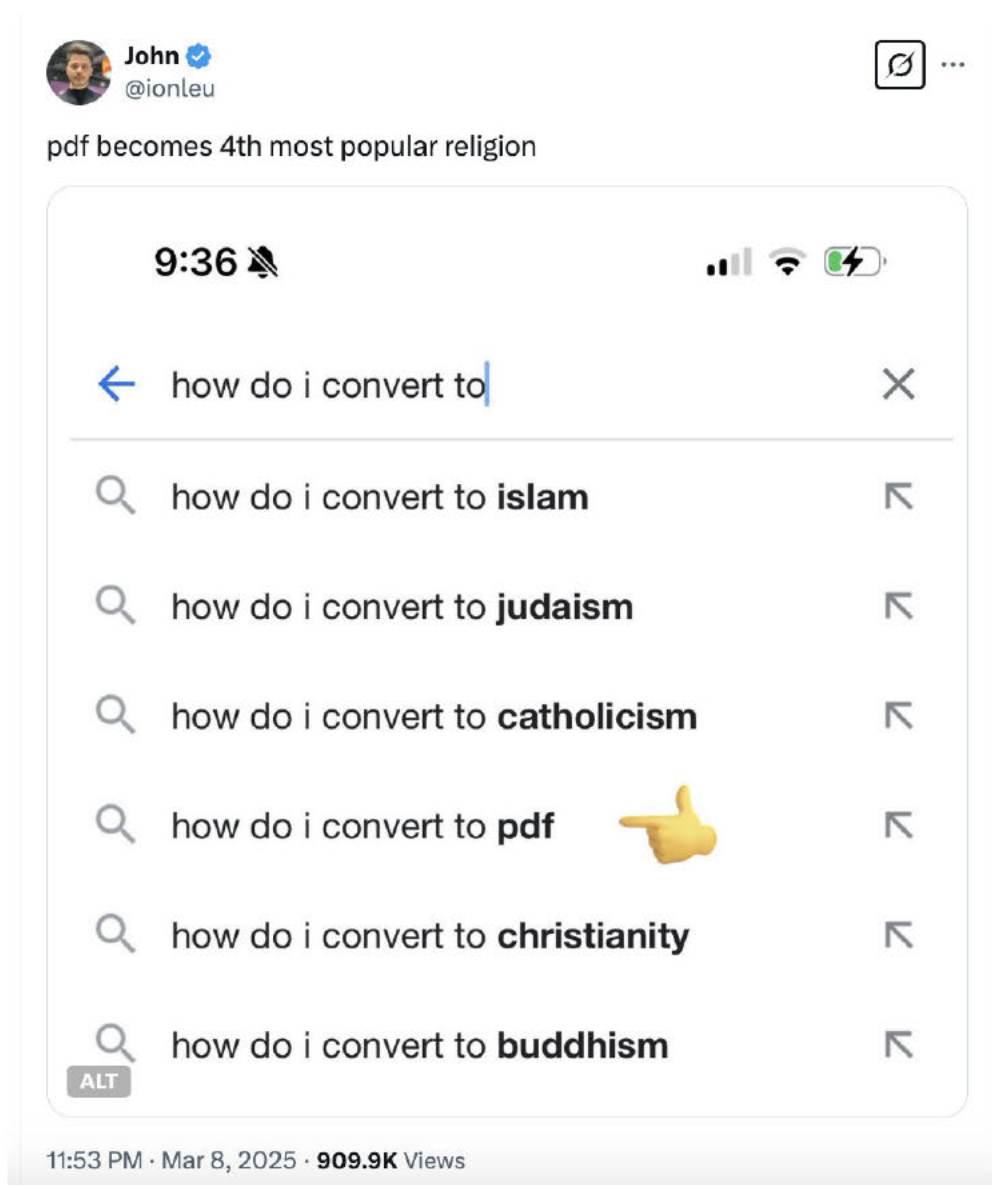
NASA gave [a fuller breakdown](#) of the lunar mission on Friday.

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**CALIFORNIA DECODED:** *The technology industry and its key characters are driving the national political narrative right now, but it is also a uniquely California story. To understand how the Golden State is defining tech policy and politics within its borders and beyond, we’ve launched **POLITICO Pro Technology: California Decoded**. This new daily newsletter will track how industry players in Silicon Valley are trying to influence state and national lawmakers – and how government officials are encouraging or foiling those figures. [Sign up now](#) to get a limited, free trial of this newsletter delivered straight to your inbox.*

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POST OF THE DAY



@ionleu on X

#### THE FUTURE IN 5 LINKS

- NASA is [cutting its chief scientist role](#).
- Apple and Meta are [likely set to face fines](#) under Europe's Digital Markets Act.
- A Facebook insider [goes public](#) with a new book.
- Inside a developing duo devoted to [creating military space tech](#).
- Elon Musk [blamed cyber attacks](#) after X did not mark the spot.

*Stay in touch with the whole team: Derek Robertson ([d Robertson@politico.com](mailto:d Robertson@politico.com)); Mohar Chatterjee ([m chatterjee@politico.com](mailto:m chatterjee@politico.com)); Steve Heuser ([s heuser@politico.com](mailto:s heuser@politico.com));*

Nate Robson ([nrobson@politico.com](mailto:nrobson@politico.com)); Daniella Cheslow ([dcheslow@politico.com](mailto:dcheslow@politico.com)); and Christine Mui ([cmui@politico.com](mailto:cmui@politico.com)).

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**From:** s 22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 March 2025 11:00 AM  
**To:** Julie Inman Grant; Richard Fleming; s 22  
**Cc:** s 22; Kathryn King; s 22; Heidi Snell; s 22  
**Subject:** RE: Draft letter for PMO [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Julie

The team is tracking the various things happening in US – see below

- a. On 21 February 2025, the White House released the [Presidential Memorandum on Defending American Companies and Innovators From Overseas Extortion and Unfair Fines and Penalties](#).
- b. On 25 February 2025, President Trump [ordered a review into UK tech laws, including the Online Safety Act](#).
- c. On 25 February 2025, California Republican Darrell Issa introduced [a bill](#) to provide that any foreign government official who engages in censorship of American speech is inadmissible and deportable.
- d. On 26 February 2025, the [Committee on the Judiciary](#) announced that it is conducting oversight of how and to what extent foreign laws, regulations, and judicial orders compel, coerce, or influence companies to censor speech in the United States.
- a. Chairperson Jim Jordan sent subpoenas to Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta, Microsoft, Rumble, TikTok, and X Corp. seeking each company's communications with foreign governments regarding its compliance with foreign censorship laws, regulations, judicial orders, or other government-initiated efforts.
- e. On 18 February 2025, the White House issued an executive order, [Ensuring Accountability for All Agencies](#), including independent agencies such as the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Communications Commission. [Some expect](#) the Administration wants the legal challenges to the executive order as a Supreme Court ruling in favour further solidifies executive branch authority over the agencies.

s 22

Thanks

s 22

anager

Strategy, Engagement and Research  
eSafety Commissioner



 s 22

 [esafety.gov.au](https://esafety.gov.au)



# s 22

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**From:** s 22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 November 2025 12:40 PM  
**To:** Julie Inman Grant  
**Cc:** s 22  
**Subject:** Pool TV interview re Roblox [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Julie,

We were hoping to shield you from any further media today but are getting a lot of requests from TV for something re Roblox s 22

If you're comfortable, Channel 10 can send a crew and reporter here for 2:30pm, which s 22 has kindly blocked in your diary. Grabs would be shared via pool arrangement with the other networks.

s 22 there may also be one question about the Jim Jordan letter. s 22 is putting something together on that we can add to the Roblox TPs.

Cheers, s 22

s 22  
Manager, Media and Corporate Communications



eSafety acknowledges all First Nations people for their continuing care of everything Country encompasses — land, waters and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, and to Elders past, present and future.

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**From:** Julie Inman Grant  
**Sent:** Saturday, 22 November 2025 3:17 PM  
**To:** Julie Inman Grant  
**Subject:** Canberra Times [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/9117029/big-tech-vs-government-australias-digital-showdown/>

1



Forces within the American government are perverting that country's first amendment to protect the interests of mega-rich big tech entrepreneurs who want to run the world wide web and the social media platforms as their own personal fiefs.

America's founding fathers would, with the greatest respect, be spinning in their graves if they knew laws enacted to defend free people against a usurping tyranny were being used to validate the exposure of children to bullying, pornography and acts of psychological violence; to disseminate pornography and hate speech; and to manipulate images of prominent people to promote schemes to defraud the credulous.

"Sic semper tyrannis" ("thus [death] always to tyrants") was the catchphrase of the revolutionaries. It was adopted as the official motto of Virginia in 1776. In 2025, big tech and the social media giants are the true tyrants; not King George III.

The irony of using the first amendment to defend the rights of a privileged few to impose their fiat on billions of people is palpable.

While news that Meta is moving expeditiously to implement the social media ban for under-16s due to take effect in less than a fortnight is welcome it had to be dragged kicking and screaming to this point.

Meta, Google, and others have all lobbied the US government to penalise Australia for what they claim is a restriction on their right to do business here on their own terms.

These companies fear Australia's global leadership. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese responded to threats of a High Court challenge from Google by



stating that the government will "make assessments... independent of any of these threats".

He stated a self-evident truth: "Social media has a social responsibility".

The most brazen example of this digital overreach is the demand that Australia's eSafety Commissioner, Julie Inman Grant, appear before the US House Judiciary Committee.

Committee Chairman and Trump ally Jim Jordan labelled Ms Inman Grant a "zealot for global takedowns," claiming her actions "directly threaten American speech."

This demand stems from Ms Grant's entirely reasonable efforts to force the takedown of footage showing an Australian bishop being stabbed while conducting a service in the sanctuary of his church.

This was not a free-speech issue; it was intended to prevent further hatred and violence, and to ensure that vulnerable people were not exposed to extremely traumatic footage.

That was a stance the Australian government supported at the time.

The eSafety body confirmed that its notices require companies to take reasonable steps, and that geo-blocking is an accepted measure that does not stop American companies from displaying content to Americans.

The reality is that this legal battle is about the platforms' right to profit from engagement, not the protection of constitutional rights.

As one expert noted, technology companies use engagement strategies to keep people scrolling for as long as possible, even when their own internal research shows harm.

Free speech does not give a person the right to shout "fire" in a crowded theatre and provoke a panic.

The internet cannot be allowed to operate as a Wild West where the powerful do what they will and the users - who are ultimately the product served up to advertisers on a plate like a Christmas roast - have no say.

The Australian government must maintain its resolve against the threat of digital tyrants, ensuring safety, especially for the young, takes precedence over corporate profit.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** Isentia Daily Briefings <DailyBriefings@isentia.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 November 2025 6:55 AM  
**To:** Julie Inman Grant  
**Subject:** ACMA & OeSC Daily Briefing 25 Nov 2025



## Daily Briefing



Tuesday, 25th November 2025

If you need assistance accessing articles or receive a media enquiry, please email [media@acma.gov.au](mailto:media@acma.gov.au) or [media@esafety.gov.au](mailto:media@esafety.gov.au)

[ACMA](#) | [Consumer](#) | [Content](#) | [Communications Infrastructure](#) | [eSafety Commissioner](#)

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [The Australian Financial Review](#) reports that the US has reacted to Australia's forthcoming streaming content regulations with implied threats of potential tariffs. Australia's ambassador to the United States Kevin Rudd has been directly petitioned by Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, after US media giants Disney, Netflix and Facebook lobbied for Australia to face punishment for the nation's actions to protect its own online content.
- [The Australian](#) reports that the ABC has come under fire from Liberal Senator Sarah Henderson, who claims the public broadcaster's editorial division is no longer "fit for purpose" as a taxpayer-funded source of news and current affairs. Saying the broadcaster has too often "failed the impartiality test", Ms. Henderson is asking for an investigation to consider "the role, responsibilities and available powers of the Australian government and the Minister for Communications in responding to, or remedying, failures by the ABC."
- [The Australian Financial Review](#) reports that Snapchat has begun notifying users under the age of 16 that their accounts will be restricted as the deadline to comply with new Australian regulations for social media approaches. The move will see around 50,000 accounts closed on December 10th, with Snapchat joining Meta in complying with the change under protest.

## **Victims of AI deepfakes could sue for emotional damages under new bill**

ABC Online, Other, 24/11/2025, Ange Lavoipierre

Australians who share AI deepfakes of another person without that person's consent could be sued or face steep fines, under a new proposal before federal parliament today. [...] The proposal seeks to add a dedicated complaints framework to the Online Safety Act, granting the eSafety Commissioner powers to demand deepfake removals and issue immediate fines.

[Read More](#)

## **Monash experts: Australian government under 16s social media ban**

Medianet, Other, 24/11/2025

With the Australian government's social media ban for under 16s coming into effect on 10 December, Monash experts across a range of Faculties are available to comment on the implications of the ban.[...] The Australian eSafety Commissioner's website is a great place to start.

[Read More](#)

## **'We strongly disagree': Snapchat begrudgingly removes teens from app**

Mumbrella, Other, 24/11/2025, Nathan Jolly

Snapchat has become the second platform to implement age verification measures in Australia, ahead of the social media minimum age act (SMMA) coming into effect on December 10.[...] The eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman-Grant explained earlier this month the list is "dynamic", and may change after the December 10 start date.

[Read More](#)

## **Jim Jordan accuses Australia of censorship as eSafety commissioner called to testify**

Ticker NEWS, Other, 24/11/2025, Harvey Vargas

U.S. Congressman Jim Jordan has ignited a political firestorm by demanding Australia's eSafety Commissioner, Julie Inman Grant, testify before Congress. He alleges that Australia is enforcing a "foreign censorship regime" that threatens American free speech, escalating tensions between global regulators and U.S. lawmakers.

[Read More](#)

## **What does the US Congress want with Australia's eSafety commissioner?**

Women's Agenda, Other, 24/11/2025

In the lead-up to the much-discussed social media ban taking effect, Australian eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant is often in the headlines. For all the attention she's been getting, Inman Grant probably didn't expect any of it to come from a foreign government committee, calling her to answer for a so-called "censorship regime".

[Read More](#)