

# Tackling Online Terrorist Content Together: Cooperation between Counterterrorism Law Enforcement and Technology Companies

By Professor Stuart Macdonald and Andrew Staniforth



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Cooperation between law enforcement and tech companies is widely regarded as necessary to tackle online terrorist content. While both sectors have publicly stated their commitment to working together, there are also impediments to such collaboration, including different cultures and operating practices.



This report focuses on how to resolve the impediments to cooperation between law enforcement and the tech sector using an interview-based methodology to examine the experiences of industry experts from both sectors, providing empirically-grounded insights into this under-researched topic.

Participants from both sectors have a shared appreciation of the threat posed by online terrorist content. From a law enforcement perspective, this stemmed from a conviction that such content has an important influence in practice. Those in the tech sector emphasised the increasing sophistication and secrecy of the online activities of terrorists.

Cross-sector collaboration has previously been challenging, and tensions still remain. Both law enforcement and the tech sector believe increased mutual understanding to be their most important priority.

The report concludes with four recommendations aimed at resolving impediments to cooperation: the development of an experience exchange programme; the implementation of a takedown-shutdown counterterrorism policing protocol; a joint upstreaming programme founded on a proactive preventative ethos; and the development of joint strategic research requirements.