



What is 'Trolling'?

'Trolling' is a form of internet slang. A 'troll' is described as somebody who deliberately posts negative or offensive comments online against others. A troll will ultimately post something offensive to provoke an individual for a reaction. Trolls use social media accounts to post their opinions which may be anything from racial, homophobic or sexist hate. The motive maybe that they wish to showcase an opinion, or generate humour, however the pragmatics of what they post could be much more damaging. Trolling can lead to devastating consequences for some victims.



Where does 'Trolling' occur?

Trolling can happen to anyone, at any time when using the Internet. Trolls tend to target people they don't know, for example, celebrities, in order to try and provoke a reaction from their fan base. It's important to recognise that 'trolling' can occur on any online platform where communication is possible. Social media is the most common platform for trolling, due to its accessibility and ease of sharing posts.

What is the law?

From 2016, the CPS were able to exercise new laws that could see those who create "derogatory hashtags" or post "humiliating" photoshopped images jailed. They also announced the launch of a hate crime consultation, issuing a series of public policy statements centred on combating crimes against disabled people, as well as racial, religious, homophobic and transphobic hate crime.



Trolling offences include:

Communications sent via social media

Virtual mobbing

Cyber bullying

Disclosing private sexual images without consent

Coercion and control

Cyber stalking and harassment