



Guidance Notes for the Implementation and Enforcement of the Internet Code of Practice 2026

February 2026

1. Introduction

The Commission has reviewed the Internet Code of Practice and has re-issued it as a Guidelines in line with the provisions of Section 70 of the Nigerian Communications Act 2003. The Internet Code of Practice 2026 (Code) has extensive provisions on traffic management, online child protection, digital platforms governance and network management and governance.

These Guidance Notes are intended to provide clarity on implementation, regulatory expectations and related timelines. These Guidance Notes will be read alongside the provisions of the Internet Code of Practice 2026, and its import and effects are subordinated to the wordings and meanings captured or provided in the Internet Code of Practice 2026.

2. Regulatory Oversight & Governance Management

The Code sets out regulatory oversight and governance management principles to guide the Commission in its engagement of stakeholders, licensees, government agencies and consumers/subscribers. The focus of the regulatory and governance approaches is to set out clear regulatory expectations and governance rules on matters cutting across different thematic areas across the Nigerian Communications Sector.

Below are clarifications on different thematic areas and approaches of the Commission:

S/No	Code Activity/Functionality	Regulatory Oversight	Governance Management
1.	<i>Standards for Open Internet Access</i>	The Commission will have regulatory oversight over traffic blocking, throttling, data prioritization, potential discriminatory traffic practices and electronic addressing management for the Nigerian Communications Sector.	The Commission will have governance management over instances where Impacted Entities carry out any

			activity with a licensed Internet Access Service Provider (IASP) that may affect the capability of the licensee to meet the expectations of a regulatory oversight.
2.	<i>Cyber Security, Privacy and Data Protection</i>	The Commission will have regulatory oversight on cyber security through its Cyber Security Framework for the Nigerian Communications Sector. Secondly, the Commission will enforce data protection on non-personal transactional data, being generated or harvested from the Nigerian Communications networks.	The Commission will work with the Nigerian Data Protection Commission (NDPC) on governance and management of Personal Data on the Nigerian Communications networks.
3.	<i>Child Online Safety</i>	There will be regulatory oversight on safeguards, parental control measures and safety tools for protection of children online.	The Commission will work with digital and online platforms in deepening and driving approaches, tools

			and awareness measures for child online safety.
4.	<i>Network Governance Rules</i>	<p>There will be regulatory oversight on</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safeguards against Unsolicited Internet Communications 2. Obligations pertaining to Unlawful content 3. Procedure for Reporting Unlawful Content 4. Takedown Notices 5. Takedown on the networks must be evaluated and approved by the Commission before any licensee effects them. Therefore, all Relevant Organizations should escalate takedown requests based on their legislation to the Commission for implementation. 6. Collaborations with Law Enforcement on Unlawful Content 7. Regulatory Requirements for the Deployment of Artificial Intelligence 	<p>There will be governance management in the following</p> <p>1. Deployment of Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies on the networks.</p> <p>2. The Commission will work and collaborate with digital and online platforms in deepening and driving approaches for escalating unlawful content, safeguards on the networks as well as removal and takedown of unlawful or</p>

			harmful content on the platforms.
5.	<i>Online Digital Platforms Governance Rules</i>	<p>The Commission will work with its licensees to ensure compliance with Section 146 of the Nigerian Communications Act 2003 that mandates that the licensees shall not allow their networks to be used for illegal and unlawful activities as well as matters that impact national security.</p>	<p>The Commission will work and collaborate with digital and online platforms in deepening and driving approaches for escalating unlawful content, safeguards on the networks as well as removal and takedown of unlawful or harmful content on the platforms.</p> <p>This will be achieved through collaboration and alignment between the Code and the Community Rules of these platforms for ease of</p>

			approaches and soft resolutions.
6.	<i>Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement</i>	Licensees are to comply with the Code as subsidiary legislation and noncompliance can attract relevant sanctions.	Impacted Entities are guided to collaborate with the Commission in its governance approach and support its consumer protection measures as outlined in the Code. This soft approach also seeks rendition of certain information to guide the Commission.

3. Implementation Milestones

These milestones and activities provide clarity on the different steps that will be taken and timelines for achieving such expectations.

S/No	Regulatory Activity	Immediate Expectations	Required Actions/Activity	Timeline
1.	Issuance of Code and Implementation	90-day Regulatory Gestation period before Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement.	Publication of the Code and notification of key stakeholders.	90 days from date of publication of the Code
2.	Escalations and Reports	90-day Initial Compliance Period to adequately prepare the Sector for full implementation.	First rendition of information through the provided Templates in the Code.	90-days from the end of the Regulatory Gestation period.
3.	Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement	Full compliance Monitoring of the Code and possible actions where necessary.	Notification of the full implementation of the Code by the Commission.	180-days from date of publication of the Code

4. Implementation Process

This part of the Guidance Notes sets out the operational architecture for the commencement of implementation and compliance with the Internet Code of Practice 2026.

S/No	Regulatory & Governance Process	NCC Role	Licensee Role	Timeline
1.	Appointment of a Designated Online Governance Officer (DOGO)	Appointment of a DOGO as a governance interface	Designate a Regulatory Focal Point for this engagement	Within 90 days Regulatory

		and channel of engagement with all licensees and Impacted Entities.		Gestation period after publication of the Code.
2.	Stakeholders Engagements	Engagement of Impacted Entities on channels of engagement with the Commission.	No role for the licensees.	Within 90 days Regulatory Gestation period after publication of the Code.

5. Review & Approval Process

This Section outlines the review and approval process for different regulatory activities provided in the Internet Code of Practice 2026.

S/No	Nature of Review/Approval	Licensees/Impacted Entities Actions	Regulatory Actions	Timeline
1.	Request on Traffic Management	Licensee can apply or make requests in relation to traffic management and standards of Open Internet Access. This may relate to zero	Review and Approval	30 days

		rating and prioritization.		
2.	Rendition on Artificial Intelligence	Notification to Commission by a Licensees prior to deploying any Artificial Intelligence tool or algorithm	Review and feedback	15 days
3.	Rendition	Rendition of Statutory returns as outlined in the Code by licensees and Impacted Entities.	Review and feedback	15 days

6. Clarification & Feedback Channel

These are channels that will enable and support any request for clarification on any matter within the confines of the Code:

S/No	Nature of Clarification/Feedback	Channel	Regulatory Actions	Timeline
1.	Traffic Management Issues	Technical Standards & Network Integrity (TSNI) Department	Review and Approval/Feedback	30 days
2.	Digital Platforms Governance Issues	Cyber Security and Internet Governance (CiG) Department	Engagement and Collaboration	To be determined on case-on-case basis

3.	Network Management and Governance Issues	Technical Standards & Network Integrity (TSNI) Cyber Security and Internet Governance (CiG) Departments	Review and Approval/Feedback	30 days
4.	Takedown Requests and Notices	Cyber Security and Internet Governance (CiG) and Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Departments (CME) Departments.	Review and Approval/Feedback	Case-on-case basis

7. Redress & Remediation Process

There are avenues for escalation of complaints and requests for remediations for any actions of the Regulator in relation to the implementation of the Code. These avenues, as outlined below, do not replace the decision review mechanism and processes in Sections 86 to 88 of the Nigerian Communications Act 2003.

S/No	Type of Redress/Remediation	Escalation Approach	Resolution Expectation	Timeline
1.	Traffic Management	Letters/Emails to relevant departments in the Commission	Review and possible changes or replacement of a decision.	Within 15 days
2.	Consumer Complaints on Online Content and Child Online Safety	Through 622, letters, emails and walk-in to relevant Commission offices.	Intervention, engagements and necessary regulatory actions.	Within 24 hours of escalation

3.	General implementation Issues and possible redress on acts of Relevant Organizations	Letters/Emails to relevant departments in the Commission	Review and possible changes or replacement of a decision.	Within 15 days
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8. Conclusion

These Guidance Notes are meant to provide clarity and support stakeholders in understanding the application, scope and implementation of the Code. It is also important to note that the Code has a varied approach that accommodates the peculiarities and complex nature of the Nigerian Communications network.

Dated: February 13, 2026

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