

Facebook to boost site safety with 1,000 more UK staff

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Facebook is creating 1,000 more jobs in London, the company's largest engineering hub outside the United States

Facebook on Tuesday said it plans to create 1,000 more London-based jobs this year to improve safety on the social network with the aid of artificial intelligence.

The announcement came as Facebook's head of global affairs and communications Nick Clegg, a former UK deputy prime minister, again urged action on setting new rules for the internet.

"Last spring, Facebook's CEO Mark Zuckerberg outlined four areas where he believes smart regulation can make a real difference: harmful content, election integrity, privacy and data portability," Clegg said in a speech delivered in Rome.

"In these areas and others we are keen to engage constructively with policymakers. We have not only long accepted the need for new regulation, we are impatient to get going."

And in a message directed at European

policymakers, Clegg added: "Everyone agrees the internet needs new rules. We want them, just as you do. So let's get to work."

Facebook's chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg meanwhile noted that increasing the company's London workforce by around one third would help to "address the challenges of an open internet and develop artificial intelligence to find and remove harmful content more quickly.

"They will also help us build the tools that help small businesses grow, compete with larger companies and create new jobs," she added.

Facebook said that it was increasing the number of staff at its largest engineering hub outside the United States to more than 4,000.

"The UK is a world leader in both innovation and creativity. That's why I'm excited that we plan to hire an additional 1,000 people in London this year alone," Sandberg said.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson welcomed the move, saying that "the UK is successfully creating both homegrown firms at the forefront of cutting-age technologies, such as artificial intelligence, whilst attracting established global tech giants like Facebook".

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