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# How to Be Social in a Regulated Industry



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#### **Government Case Study: The Met Office**

- The Met Office is UK National Weather and Defense Service. It is an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
- Their Social Media Objective is to engage the public around weather topics with subject matter expertise
- Award winning #nameourstorm Social Media Campaign involved the public in choosing names for upcoming storms





#### **Government Case Study: The Met Office**

- Both the press and the public drew a lot of attention to the campaign and engaged with over 10,000 submissions
- Once the names were chosen WIRED
   UK went as far as invoking the Freedom
   of Information act to try to uncover
   what names had been submitted that
   weren't selected
- Met Office obliged with a well written letter that Wired posted with the article



Other 'names' were discounted because they were not proper names, these include: Armegeddon, Apocalypse, Baldrick, Big Boss, Bilbo, BlackHeart, Bluetooth, branch wobbler, Cyclops, DarkBloom, Excalibur, Freebooter, Forkbeard, Gale, Gnasher, Goliath, Goldeneye, Hades, Hammer, Holy Flying Circus, ForkBeard, Howitzer, Icy, In A Teacup (or Ena Tee Cup), Jelbuoy, King Henry V, Hot Brew, Kraken, leaf shaker, leaf stripper, Lionheart, Maelstrom, Magneto, Megatron, Melbourne, Minatour, Mr Brown, NastyBoy,Oblivion, Noddy, Poacher, Power, Poplar, Polaris, root ripper, Queen Victoria, Skylab, Smaug, Splasher, Stair rod, Stomp, Stormageddon, Sssweetcaroline, Swoosh, Tempest, Tetley, Thrasher, Thumper, Tiger, Torch, trunk trembler, Twizzle, Typhoon, Valkyrie, Vader, Voldemort, Wheatherwax, Wookie, Zebedee,

The names of retailers such as B&Q, Asda etc. were also excluded.





### Unique Regulations in Government for UK



**HM Government** 



Social media guidance for civil servants (October 2014)

- The Environmental Information Regulations 2004
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Regulation 13 of EIR data protection principles, preventing release of personal data to a member of the public
- Disclosure of personal data is prohibited by Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 1998 of fair and lawful processing.
- Information protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988
- EU Data Privacy Laws (for now)

## **Key Takeaways**



