before the first line of code

I thought about automating my inbox. Here is what LinkedIn would answer.

So I gathered what is allowed and what is not. Six answers, each one a real rule or a real event from 2025–2026.

```
# the request I did not send
GET /messaging/inbox
User-Agent: my-little-script/0.1
```

200

OK

Posting works.
Sending DMs does not.

- The self-serve API lets an app **post, comment and react** for you.
- EU members can read their **own** inbox through the DMA portability API. Read-only.

Rule of thumb: a tool that **sends DMs automatically** does not use the official API.

403

Forbidden: partners only

- Messaging API: approved partners, **1st-degree** only, no automated or scheduled sends.
- Sales Navigator partner program: **no new partners**, no form, no waitlist.
- No delegate role on personal profiles. Sharing your login breaks the User Agreement.

So who answers for busy creators? Often assistants with a **shared password**, or tools that hold the session.

999

Request Denied

- Not in any RFC. It is **LinkedIn's own code** for clients that look like bots.
- Since April 2026 we know: a script probes **6,000+** browser extensions. In 2017 it was 38.
- **99.7%** of fake accounts were stopped before any member report (H2 2025).

Detection runs before anybody complains. A report from another member is the **last** line, not the first.

451

Unavailable for legal reasons

2025-01	LinkedIn sues **Proxycurl**. Hundreds of thousands of fake accounts, says the claim.
2025-07	Proxycurl shuts down. A "~$10M revenue business", says its founder.
2025-10	LinkedIn sues **ProAPIs**. Customers paid up to **$15,000/month**.

410

Gone: the company page

2025-03	**Apollo.io** and **Seamless.AI** pages removed. No reason given. Apollo's is back by 2026.
2026-03	**HeyReach** page removed, ~16,400 followers. CEO, CTO, CRO, CMO profiles restricted.

The tools kept running. LinkedIn took the **reach**, not the product.

202

Accepted: my plan

- If I build it: a local tool **reads** my inbox and **drafts** each reply by my own rules.
- I check, edit and **send every message myself**.
- And the "40% of users banned" stat? It traces back to **one** unverified source.

Sources · LinkedIn help a1341387 · LinkedIn Community Report H2 2025 · http.dev/999 · Bloomberg Law 2025-10-29 · Social Media Today (Proxycurl) · Salesmotion (Apollo) · heyreach.io/blog/heyreach-ban · gHacks / Tom's Hardware (BrowserGate) · leadsforlinked fact-check. Links in the comments.

facts as of 2026-10-27