



Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
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Dara Nasr
Managing Director, Twitter UK
Twitter
c/o 20 Air Street
Soho, London
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By email

19 May 2020

Dear Mr Nasr,

Oral evidence: COVID-19 Infodemic

I received a letter last week from Katy Minshall, UK Public Policy and Government Relations Manager, following her oral evidence to the Committee on behalf of Google on 30 April.

Further to Ms. Minshall's evidence, the Committee still has outstanding questions regarding user verification, reporting mechanisms and content moderation. I also remain concerned about the role of influencers and 'blue ticks' in spreading misinformation such as 5G conspiracy theories, including high profile celebrities and politicians.

In my letter to Twitter on 4 May, I expressed disappointment with the oral evidence given on 30 April. In my letter, I left open the option of recalling Twitter – represented this time by a senior executive with direct knowledge of, and accountability for, company policy. I regret to say that I now have no option but to do this.

Accordingly, we request oral evidence from you, as a senior executive with sufficient knowledge and authority to give an accurate account of recent events concerning Twitter's response to the infodemic. On 13 May, I asked a government minister whether social media companies have a problem with democratic scrutiny, which she could not deny to despite her relatively positive assessment of your efforts in tackling misinformation thus far. I hope therefore you take this opportunity to be accountable and transparent to your users in the UK and abroad.

We would like this session to take place in w/c 1 June. Committee staff will be in touch to discuss a suitable timeslot, but I would ask that you respond by Friday 22 May confirming your willingness to participate.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Knight MP
Chair, Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee