



Paul Scully MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Science, Innovation &  
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[www.gov.uk/dsit](http://www.gov.uk/dsit)

Baroness Stowell,  
Chair of the House of Lords Communications and  
Digital Committee

10 November 2023

Dear Baroness Stowell,

Thank you for your letter dated 19th October 2023. As Minister for Technology and Digital Economy, I'm grateful for your continued support and commitment towards making the UK digitally inclusive.

This Government recognises that having digital skills for the modern world is not optional, and one of our key priorities is ensuring no one is left behind in this digital age. That's why the UK Government Digital Strategy 2022, launched last year, is clear and has a vision to enable everyone, from industry and across the UK, to benefit from all that digital innovation can offer. The ways in which we are advancing digital inclusion are referenced throughout the relevant chapters of the Digital Strategy, such as promoting digital skills.

The new cross-Whitehall ministerial group highlighted in your letter will help to deliver our digital inclusion objectives. At the group's first meeting in September we discussed the wide range of activity taking place across government to promote digital inclusion and the need to raise public awareness of the support available. We agreed to six monthly meetings to drive progress and accountability.

Digital inclusion is a cross-cutting issue that spans social engagement, education, employment, access to services and many more elements of life. Policies and associated levers sit across government, and as such, a large part of DSIT's role in this space involves working with other departments to ensure that digital inclusion is embedded in government priorities. It may be helpful for you to engage with other departments in the ministerial group to understand the work they are leading on to promote digital inclusion. As referenced in the Government's response to the Committee's report, the relevant departments are Department for Work and Pensions, Department for Education, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and Cabinet Office, and I would be happy to support you and your colleagues to engage with them on this matter if helpful.

More broadly, it may be helpful for us to meet to discuss DSIT's work on this issue, including our role in coordinating activity across Whitehall and the digital inclusion strategy proposal. If you would find this helpful please let my office know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and strokes, positioned above the printed text.

Paul Scully MP  
**Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the  
Department for Science, Innovation & Technology**