



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Rt Hon Peter Kyle
Secretary of State for Science, Innovation
and Technology
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

www.gov.uk/dsit

Chi Onwurah MP
Chair of the Science, Innovation & Technology
Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

20 November 2024

Dear Chi,

ONLINE SAFETY ACT: CONSULTATION ON THE STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

I am writing to share with you and your committee, for information, details of the consultation process to develop the government's Statement of Strategic Priorities for online safety. This begins today, 20 November 2024 and will run until 10 January 2025.

Statement of Strategic Priorities for Online Safety

Section 172 of the Online Safety Act (the Act) provides the Secretary of State with the power to issue a Statement of Strategic Priorities to set out government's priorities as they relate to online safety matters. The statement may also specify the particular outcomes that this government intends to achieve, associated with these strategic priorities. I have published a draft statement today on gov.uk.

Section 173 of the Act requires the Secretary of State to consult Ofcom, and any such other person considered appropriate, on the draft of the statement for at least 40 days. I plan to consult with a small group of key stakeholders before I finalise the statement. I would be grateful if you, on behalf of your committee, would consider contributing to the consultation.

Following this consultation, changes to the draft that appear necessary in view of the responses must be made before laying the statement before Parliament, subject to a 40-day objection period, which is expected to take place in early 2025.

Once the statement has successfully completed its parliamentary procedure it can then be formally designated. Ofcom will then be required under section 92 of the Act to have regard to the statement when exercising its online safety functions and must set out what actions it plans to take in consequence of the statement. Ofcom will then need to publish annual reviews that set out what it has done each year in consequence of the statement.

A copy of this letter has also been sent to the Chair of the House of Lords' Digital and Communications Committee. I will write again to your committee to notify you in advance of laying this statement before Parliament.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Kyle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rt Hon Peter Kyle
Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology