



Department for  
Science, Innovation  
& Technology

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Mr Alistair Carmichael  
Environment, Food and  
Rural Affairs Committee  
[efracom@parliament.uk](mailto:efracom@parliament.uk)

12 February 2025

Dear Mr Alistair Carmichael,

**RESPONSE TO THE ANIMAL SENTIENCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE ONLINE  
SAFETY ACT**

I am writing to inform you that my department (Department for Science Innovation and Technology, DSIT) is publishing its response to the Animal Sentience Committee's (ASC) report on the Online Safety Act (OSA). This response was laid in Parliament on 12 February 2025.

As you will be aware, the ASC is an independent committee of experts that was established by the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act 2022. It is hosted by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Its purpose is to help Parliament consider how Ministerial decisions have taken the welfare of sentient animals into account. It has a statutory ability to produce reports on this for Parliament.

The ASC published an analysis of how animal welfare has been considered in the implementation of the OSA on 23 October 2024. I appreciate the ASC's valuable report on this matter and have considered the important recommendations put forward by the ASC in the response.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Maggie Jones  
Minister for the Future Digital Economy and Online Safety

