



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Baroness Maggie Jones
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Chi Onwurah MP,
Chair of Science, Innovation
And Technology Committee
commonssitc@parliament.uk

25 April 2025

Dear Chi,

I am writing as the Minister with responsibility for the implementation of the Online Safety Act 2023, to set out our approach to supporting parliamentary scrutiny of the implementation of the Act.

The Online Safety Act lays the foundation for strong protections against illegal content and harmful material for children and represents a step forward in online safety. The government has been working with Ofcom to ensure the Online Safety Act is implemented quickly and effectively. Ofcom has consulted extensively on its approach, including consultations on its codes of practice.

This has resulted in progress such as the illegal harms codes of practice coming into force on Monday 17 March, which means Ofcom can now take robust enforcement action against those failing to comply with the new duties.

There are a number of forthcoming parliamentary processes in the coming months as follows:

- Ofcom's finalisation of its children's codes for parliamentary scrutiny (subject to a 40-day objection period). I have now written to you separately about this.
- DSIT will lay the Online Safety Statement of Strategic Priorities for parliamentary scrutiny (subject to a 40-day objection period)
- Ofcom is responsible for providing DSIT with two Statutory Instruments to lay relating to the fee regime. They will cover how qualifying worldwide revenue will be determined (draft affirmative procedure) and what financial information services need to provide to Ofcom at the point of notification (made negative procedure)
- DSIT is responsible for making and laying the regulations which specify the revenue threshold at which services will be liable to pay fees (made negative procedure)
- DSIT is responsible for laying the regulations setting the eligibility criteria for launching a super complaint (draft affirmative procedure)

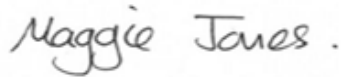
Beyond that, there is the potential for future parliamentary processes for areas such as new codes of practice or priority offences being added to the Online Safety Act, and we will keep you informed of developments. To support the ability of Parliament to scrutinise this work, we will where possible, continue to share Statutory Instruments with your committee ahead of the formal laying process. In practice, the process of developing and finalising Statutory

Instruments means it is challenging to share these well in advance of laying. We will also continue to let you know when we are publishing a related consultation.

You should note Ofcom responsibilities as the independent regulator. We have worked closely together to fulfil our respective roles in implementing the regime and will continue to support Ofcom in ensuring that committees and other parliamentarians have opportunities to engage.

I have also written to the Chair of the Lords Communications and Digital Committee to inform them of our approach. I look forward to engaging with your Committee as we continue to get the critical protections of the Act in place.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Maggie Jones."

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