



The Speaker

Speaker's House House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Wednesday, 16th July 2025

Dear Ms Thomas,

Thank you for giving evidence to the Speaker's Conference last week. It was an important evidence session that identified a number of issues regarding the abuse and intimidation of MPs and candidates, and also raised a number of further questions.

We are therefore writing to follow up, as we said we would do in the session. Please can Meta provide answers to the following questions:

- How does Meta define a “credible” threat of violence, and how does the company assess whether a particular post meets that threshold? In particular, how many people involved in the assessment of these posts have formal threat assessment training or professional security expertise?
 - During the session you committed to write with more information about a threat to assault an MP that your team had deemed not credible: please can you explain on what basis that decision was made, what context you assessed it against, and how much time and how many people it took to make it?
- How many formal and informal requests has Facebook and Instagram each received from the police in the UK to disclose a user's identity and what percentage of 1) formal and 2) informal requests has each company a) disclosed, b) provided the IP address and the cell tower location for, c) been unable to disclose, or d) declined to disclose? How long, on average, does it take for Facebook and Instagram each to respond to a 1) formal and 2) informal request from the police? What, if any, information does Meta require the police to provide in order for you to disclose an account's identity?
- When a user notifies Facebook or Instagram of a potentially abusive post, what are each company's target and average times for making a decision on whether or not to remove it?
- You told us Meta works closely with political parties: what arrangements does Meta have in place for them, and which parties are covered? What, if any, barriers are there for extending these arrangements to smaller parties?
- How many people do you have working in Meta's content moderation team, both globally and covering the UK? How many global and UK posts has Facebook moderated on average in each month since November 2024 and what were the equivalent figures for the eight months leading up to October 2024?

- What actions has Meta taken to comply with the requirements of the Online Safety Act and what impact have these actions had on users' experience of your platforms? What preparatory actions are Meta taking for phase three of implementation of the Act, particularly around additional duties for categorised services and user empowerment?
- The Conference is considering the merits of a public health style campaign targeting the impression that abuse of MPs is acceptable, and whether it could be delivered through social media platforms: how could a campaign like this be most persuasive for Meta's users?
- Do Facebook or Instagram have any form of automatic prompts asking users to reconsider before posting harmful material?
- Does proactive monitoring of MPs' profiles occur outside elections and do the arrangements Meta have in place for elections also apply for by-elections?
- How has Meta's policy on misogynistic content changed since December 2024?

We would also welcome any additional information you think would be relevant to the Conference's work.

Please can you provide this information by Friday August 15th, so that we have time to properly consider it before our next planned evidence session. The Conference plans to publish this letter and any response on our website. If there is anything you wish to discuss in respect of this correspondence, please contact the Conference staff.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Hoyle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP
Speaker

Megan Thomas,
Public Affairs Manager, UK, Meta