



Ministry
of Justice

Alex Davies-Jones MP
Parliamentary Under-
Secretary of State

Gweinyddiaeth
Cyfiawnder

Andy Slaughter MP
Chair, Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref: SUB130948

15 January 2026

Dear Andy,

**COMMENCEMENT OF OFFENCES RELATING TO THE CREATION OF DEEPFAKE
INTIMATE IMAGES IN THE DATA (USE AND ACCESS) ACT 2025**

I am writing to inform you that earlier today I signed commencement regulations to bring into force section 138 of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 which creates new criminal offences relating to the creation, or requesting the creation, of deepfake intimate images of adults without consent or reasonable belief in consent. These regulations bring the offences into force on 6 February 2026.

The issue of intimate deepfakes created without consent has drawn intense public concern in recent weeks – and rightly so. The creation of these images, and the fear that they may be shared, has the potential to cause profound and lasting harm to those targeted. This form of abuse is abhorrent and wholly unacceptable – and it is imperative that the Government acts decisively to ensure such conduct is stamped out before it becomes entrenched. Commencing these provisions marks a decisive step and is an essential part of our wider commitment to reducing intimate image-based abuse.

Once in force, these provisions will criminalise the intentional creation of a purported intimate image of an adult (including “deepfakes”) without consent or reasonable belief in consent. This change will ensure that those responsible for producing such degrading material can be brought before the courts and held properly to account.

The provisions will also criminalise a person asking someone else to create a deepfake intimate image of an adult without that adult’s consent, regardless of whether the image is then created.

These measures will sit alongside existing legislation, which already makes it an offence to share an intimate image (including deepfakes) without consent or reasonable belief in consent, and to threaten to share such an image. Taken together with our provisions on taking or recording intimate images without consent in the Crime and Policing Bill, these measures will comprehensively address this degrading and abusive conduct, while providing victims with the robust protection they deserve when images purporting to depict them in an intimate state are created without permission. In addition, it is an offence to make an indecent image of a child under 18.

We are acutely aware of the speed at which this technology is advancing – the last few weeks has demonstrated this – and of the fact this is a rapidly evolving area of law. Accordingly, we will keep these new offences, and their operation in practice, under close and ongoing review to ensure they remain fit for purpose and are capable of addressing emerging threats.

By bringing these provisions into force, we are sending a clear and unequivocal message that exploitation and humiliation through new technologies will not be tolerated and such behaviour must never be allowed to become normalised.

I hope you will view the commencement of these provisions as a vital milestone in protecting victims from the serious harms of intimate image abuse.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Alex Davies-Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ALEX DAVIES-JONES MP
Minister for Victims and Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls