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Dame Chi Onwurah MP Chair
Science, Innovation and
Technology Committee
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2 June 2026

Dear Dame Chi,

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere thanks for your invaluable work, and for sharing the Committee views and detailed, highly insightful policy recommendations following your evidence session on 11 March. Please be assured that we will give your comprehensive recommendations the closest and most careful consideration as we develop our next steps.

Ensuring children have healthy and safe lives online is one of my top priorities. Through our consultation “Growing up in the online world” we wanted to hear from as many people as possible to ensure children can grow up with a safer, healthier and more enriching relationship with the online world. We have received over 100,000 responses to the consultation including responses to the parents and carers survey and responses from children and young people.

This is an important issue, and this government is clear that everyone – especially children – should be able to enjoy the benefits of being online while being protected from harm. We know many parents, carers and members of the public are concerned about the risks people can face online, and we are committed to ensuring there are stronger protections in place.

Provisions in the Online Safety Act (the Act) establish a strong foundation to protect children online, and we continue to monitor the Act’s effectiveness, but as a government we have always been clear that we will build on the Act’s foundations and we are already taking action. We are closing gaps on AI services which remain unregulated through the Crime and Policing Act, criminalising the making and supply of nudification tools for non-consensual intimate images and introducing a new victim-centred duty requiring platforms to remove non-consensual intimate images within 48 hours of a valid report.

We are committed to doing more, and the consultation sought views on the best way forward. That is why I have been clear that this is not about whether I will act, but how – and I will leave no stone unturned. It is essential that we get our next steps right and get a view on all concerns parents, carers and children may have. I have been clear I will respond before the summer recess, and aim to introduce regulations before the end of the year.



Your recommendations include services being safe by design, with specific reference to addictive functionalities such as infinite scrolling. Our consultation sought views on a range of different measures including limiting addictive features and functionalities across online services as well as overnight curfews, setting a minimum age for social media, protections around AI chatbots, strengthened age assurance, and better support for parents and carers. We consulted on the mechanism, which is the right thing to do, but we are clear that under any outcome we will impose some form of age or functionality restrictions for children under 16.

The consultation closed on 26 May 2026. We are committed to following the evidence and have already put in place legal powers to ensure we can act quickly following the outcome of the consultation, through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act, which has now received Royal Assent. We have committed to setting out a timeline for implementing regulations within three months of Royal Assent and intend to prepare regulations by the end of this year.

We welcome the reflections you have provided and will be taking all views into consideration as we develop the next steps. I have shared your letter with the team leading the government's response to the children's consultation, and they will take it into account as part of their work.

Your letter also references the launch of an inquiry into neuroscience and digital childhoods to shed light on the impact of digital devices and social media on the brain development of children and young people, and their health and educational outcomes. My department has provided written evidence to this inquiry and I look forward to considering your findings.

Thank you again for sharing the Committee's reflections and recommendations with me. I remain personally committed to making the UK the safest place to be online, while supporting people to navigate the online world with confidence and protecting users' rights, including freedom of expression and privacy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Kendall", written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Liz Kendall MP
Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology