

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport and International Relations Committee

31 May 2022

Letter to the UK Government re. Online Safety Bill

Dear Huw and Delyth,

I note that the Business Committee has invited your committees to consider and report on the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum on the UK Government's Online Safety Bill.

On 19 May, I wrote to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Nadine Dorries MP. The letter sets out concerns raised to us by a group of students about the role of social media, gaming websites, and other social networking websites and applications in peer on peer sexual harassment in schools and colleges. What the students told us reinforced our own longstanding concerns about the impact of social media on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.

I have asked the UK Government to set out whether, and to what extent, the Bill addresses the students' concerns, and for a technical briefing from UK Government officials about the impact of the Bill on children and young people. I would be happy to open the briefing to members of your committees if the UK Government responds favourably to my request.

I will keep you informed about any response we receive from the UK Government.

Yours sincerely,

Jayne Bryant

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.