

Mark Zuckerberg
CEO, Facebook
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94205

31 October 2018

Dear Mr Zuckerberg

‘International grand committee’ hearing: call for evidence

We write jointly as Chairs of the committees of the UK and Canadian Houses of Commons appointed to scrutinise digital policy, including disinformation and the governance of the internet.

Over the past year, our committees have both sought evidence from a Facebook executive with sufficient authority to give an accurate account of recent failures of process, including the recent Cambridge Analytica scandal and subsequent data breaches.

You have chosen instead to send less senior representatives, and have not yourself appeared, despite having taken up invitations from the US Congress and Senate, and the European Parliament.

We understand that it is not possible to make yourself available to all parliaments. However, we believe that your users in other countries need a line of accountability to your organisation—directly, via yourself. We would have thought that this responsibility is something that you would want to take up. We both plan to issue final reports on this issue by the end of this December, 2018. The hearing of your evidence is now overdue, and urgent.

We plan to hold a special joint parliamentary hearing at the Westminster Parliament on Tuesday 27th November—an ‘international grand committee’ on disinformation and fake news. This will be led by ourselves but a number of other parliaments are likely to be represented.

No such joint hearing has ever been held. Given your self-declared objective to “fix” Facebook, and to prevent the platform’s malign use in world affairs and democratic process, we would like to give you the chance to appear at this hearing.

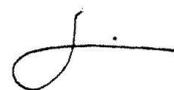
We call on you to take up this historic opportunity to tell parliamentarians from both sides of the Atlantic and beyond about the measures Facebook is taking to halt the spread of disinformation on your platform, and to protect user data.

We would like to receive your response by Wednesday 7 November.

Yours sincerely,



DAMIAN COLLINS MP
CHAIR,
UK DIGITAL, CULTURE, MEDIA
& SPORT SELECT COMMITTEE



BOB ZIMMER MP
CHAIR,
CANADIAN STANDING
COMMITTEE ON ACCESS TO
INFORMATION, PRIVACY & ETHICS