

Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

For the attention of: Damian Collins MP, Chair

Via email

4 March 2019

Dear Mr Collins

I write further to my appearance before the DCMS Select Committee on 27 November 2018.

The Committee asked about an advertiser on our platform called Mainstream Network. As I noted at the time, in the event that Facebook receives a request for personal data from an entity which can legally require such information, Facebook will provide information in line with normal procedures. You will appreciate that it would be inappropriate to provide personal data of our users to any third party absent a lawful basis for such disclosure.

As the Committee states in its Final Report published 18 February 2019, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has commenced an investigation into Mainstream Network. To assist its investigation, on 1 February 2019 ICO provided Facebook Ireland Limited (**Facebook**) with an Information Notice under Section 141 of the Data Protection Act requesting certain information about ads run in connection with the Mainstream Network Facebook Page.

Facebook has provided information to ICO on a private and confidential basis. It is now a matter for ICO (acting in accordance with its statutory duties) to determine what they will do with the data provided to them.

I further note that as of 29 November 2019, we have required political advertisers to consent to the publication of additional information in the form of a disclaimer that they create when they go through the authorisation process. All political advertisements along with these disclaimers are made available to the public in our Ad Library.

Sincerely



Richard Allan
VP, Policy Solutions