



Science and Technology Committee

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From Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Chair

Rt Hon Jeremy Wright MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London, SW1A 2BQ

17th July 2019

Dear Jeremy,

Impact of social media and screen-use on young people's health

Thank you to you and your colleagues in Government for your response in May 2019 to my Committee's Report, *Impact of social media and screen-use on young people's health*.

The Committee has considered the Response and would be grateful if you could provide further information on:

- When DCMS's and DHSC's Areas of Research Interest documents will next be reviewed (see your response to paragraph 40 of our Report);
- Specific steps being taken to better understand the scale of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, as by the Government's admission the National Crime Agency's estimate of 80,000 people in the UK presenting some kind of sexual threat to children online could well underplay the prevalence of the problem (see your response to paragraph 108 of our Report);
- Whether the Government accepts the target, as we recommended at paragraph 109 of our Report, to halve reported CSE in two years and all but eliminate it in 4 years;
- The Government appeared to not accept our recommendation at paragraph 165 that it should commission the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) to evaluate different approaches to smartphones in schools as our timescale would not allow the EEF "to carry out an in depth evaluation of different approaches to handling smartphone use, as it rules out any potential for evaluating attainment". Would the Government consider accepting our recommendation if the EEF were given a longer timescale to complete this work;
- When the Government intends i) to legislate for the regulator (who will uphold the new social media regulatory regime); and ii) for the regulator to be in operation;
- Whether the regulator will publish annual transparency reporting from companies, referenced in your response to our recommendation at paragraph 232, as a matter of course; and

- Whether the Government expects to see information on companies' Trusted Flaggers made available in companies' annual transparency reports (see your response to paragraph 232 of our Report).

We would also appreciate if you could notify us when new research on evidence gaps on online platforms and safety is published, as you outlined in your response to paragraph 38 of our Report.

I would be grateful if you could co-ordinate with Ministers in other departments and send a joint response to us by Monday 9 September.



Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP
Chair