

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

Dame Melanie Dawes  
Chief Executive  
Email: [ChiefExecutive@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:ChiefExecutive@ofcom.org.uk)

15 June 2026

**By email**

Dear Secretary of State,

Thank you for your letter on the expansion of social media restrictions for children and your request for Ofcom's support in prioritising action to deliver the new measures quickly.

We are ready to work closely with your officials to ensure that these protections can be robust and effective alongside being implemented quickly. We will also continue to prioritise enforcement of existing protections for children and citizens more generally under the Online Safety Act.

In light of today's announcement, we have already kicked off work looking at the options for effective age assurance at 16 and I can confirm that we will deliver an assessment that can be used to inform parliamentary debate by the end of October, as you have requested.

You highlighted the importance of transparency and asked for an update on enforcement strategy and outcomes to be part of our regular accountability to Parliament, including a report on the impact of a ban within a year of it coming into force.

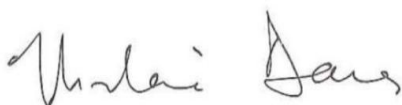
I can confirm that we will publish a report within these timelines. We are open to deepening and strengthening our accountability to Parliament and would value parliamentary proposals in this area. We will also publish a new version of our roadmap for implementing the online safety regime immediately after the introduction of regulations into Parliament, to allow parliamentarians to understand the path to enforcement in detail.

I appreciate your acknowledgement of the additional burden on Ofcom in delivering these new protections and your commitment to provide additional funding for this work. Our officials will continue to work together on the detail of this, alongside the detail of implementation. My Group Director for Online Safety will follow up with our initial thoughts on how we can work together to deliver quickly and effectively.

Improving the safety of UK users online is a defining challenge for our era and at Ofcom we are ready to continue working closely with government, Parliament, stakeholders and partners to drive lasting change. I am always keen to meet you, alongside Sir Ian, to discuss how we can work together most effectively to deliver this vital agenda.

I am copying this letter to the select committee chairs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melanie Dawes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dame Melanie Dawes

*Copied to: Dame Chi Onwurah MP, Chair, Science, Innovation and Technology Committee; Baroness Keeley, Chair, Communications and Digital Committee*