



Dame Melanie Dawes  
Ofcom  
Riverside House  
2a Southwark Bridge Road  
London  
SE1 9HA

2 April 2025

Dear Melanie,

Thank you for your letter of 25 February regarding the launch of Ofcom's consultation on your draft guidance on violence against women and girls (VAWG).

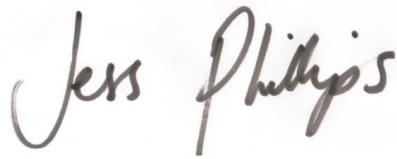
As you know, tackling VAWG is a top priority for this Government, and we have set out our clear ambition to halve it in a decade. This includes taking action to address these crimes wherever they occur, including online. We know that some forms of VAWG – such as 'Revenge porn' – take place almost exclusively online, and that others – such as stalking – can have both online and offline elements. It is imperative that online service providers do more to play their part in addressing this, both in terms of taking the action the Online Safety Act 2023 requires of them and in seeking to go further.

I welcome that Ofcom is taking action, and I am pleased to see that 'good practice' steps have been set out, outlining practical ways in which providers can demonstrate their dedication to the safety of women and girls. Additionally, the inclusion of case studies paints a helpful picture for providers as to what implementation can look like within a specific context.

There are also areas where I would be keen to see further action. For example, where victims report to the police, we have heard from the VAWG sector and policing that there is more online providers can do to support the police in accessing key evidence. While some victims may prefer to access this information themselves, others may not and the job of investigating crime is ultimately one for law enforcement; ensuring providers recognise the action they can take in this regard is essential if we are to see more perpetrators brought to justice.

As you recognise, we must see positive change in women and girls' experiences online, and both the implementation of the 2023 Act and Ofcom's critical role as regulator present a key opportunity to help drive that. I look forward to continuing to work with you on this important agenda.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jess Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jess Phillips MP**  
**Minister for Safeguarding and Violence against Women & Girls**