

CHARLIE DEWHIRST M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dame Melanie Dawes

CEO

Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

21st August 2024

Dear Dame Melanie,

Concerns Regarding Illegal Content on Social Media Platforms

I am writing to bring to your attention a deeply concerning issue raised by one of my constituents regarding the posting of illegal content on social media platforms.

Specifically, there have been instances of videos and images depicting the torture of monkeys being shared online. This content originates in Indonesia but is published in the UK. My constituent has reported this content to Facebook, requesting its removal, and has urged the company, along with other social media platforms, to implement more robust monitoring systems to detect and remove such cruelty-related content.

Under the Online Safety Act, content that involves or promotes animal cruelty is strictly prohibited, and there are provisions for holding companies accountable when they facilitate the publication or dissemination of such content. However, it appears that there may be gaps in the enforcement of these regulations, as this type of content continues to surface on social media platforms.

Given Ofcom's role in regulating online safety and ensuring compliance with the Online Safety Act, I urge you to take immediate action to address this issue. It is essential that social media companies be held to the highest standards of responsibility in monitoring and removing illegal and harmful content, particularly when it involves the abuse and torture of animals.

I would appreciate your investigation into this matter and your guidance on the steps that can be taken to ensure that such content is swiftly and permanently removed from social media platforms. Additionally, I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter in more detail and highlight my constituents concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response.

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Yours sincerely,

Charlie Dewhirst

Charlie Dewhirst MP
Bridlington & the Wolds