

ORAL QUESTION FOR TUESDAY 18th MARCH 2025

Deputy K.M. Wilson of St. Clement will ask the following question of the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development –

“Will the Minister advise what consideration, if any, is being given to introducing online safety legislation to protect children and young adults from the harm of social media; and if none, what provision, if any, is being put in place to protect children from this harm?”

In accordance with Standing Order 63(9) the attached written answer has been provided to this Oral Question.

63(9). If any Oral question has not been asked before the end of the 2 hours and 20 minutes allowed, the Member of the States who was due to answer it must provide a written response to the Greffier for distribution as soon as practicable.

Answer

As Minister for Sustainable Development, I have responsibility for the protection of islanders’ data. For example, if an identifiable image of you appears online, it is considered your data, and you are already protected under the current data protection law.

My officers are working on legislative changes, in consultation with the Information Commissioner, to facilitate the removal of internet content that infringes Islanders data rights, including those of children. The aim is to empower citizens to effectively request removal from relevant online platforms. It seeks to shorten the response times of the platforms and in case to non-compliance effective remedy through the data regulator – JOIC – based on the island.