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Constable Richard Vibert
Minister for children and Families

BY EMAIL

2nd June 2025

Dear Minister

Follow-up matters from the public hearing: What protection do children in Jersey have from online harms?

Thank you for attending the public hearing on 16th of May, together with your Officers, your time is much appreciated. During the hearing commitments were provided to follow up with:

- Sharing a copy of the operating policy covering mobile phone and internet use in children's homes, including how screen time is managed, together with the risk assessment template used when a device is seized or restricted, and confirmation that filtering software is now installed in the two short break units.
- Clarification on whether existing Jersey legislation adequately covers the issue of "legal but harmful" online content. If it does not, could the Minister confirm whether this will be raised with the Minister for Economic Development for consideration in forthcoming legislative work?

The Panel would be grateful if you could provide more details regarding the following questions, which have been out below, for your attention:

1. Please confirm if data specific to online harms experienced by children and young people will be included within the centralised database developed as part of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) initiative. If not, explain why and detail alternative approaches for effectively capturing this information.
2. Could you clarify the current and planned strategies addressing risks associated with children accessing or sharing suicide or self-harm content online, specifically:
 - Educational or preventive programmes in place.
 - Systems for rapid response and intervention when such content is identified

We'd also be grateful if you could respond to the questions that the Panel did not have time to ask in writing, and I set these out below, for your attention:

1. Could you outline key learnings derived from the May 2022 'Children and the Digital World' report? Please confirm if subsequent work or initiatives have been undertaken in response. Specifically:
 - Are early intervention programmes within the Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Service now including information to support families on issues such as screen time and cyberbullying?
2. Could you detail how online safety and digital life for young people are reflected in the 'Big Picture Outcomes' of the Children and Young People's Plan 2024–2027, including:
 - Progress on data collection for indicators, such as the percentage of young people who feel safe online.
 - Adaptations or potential updates to the plan to reflect evolving digital challenges.
3. Could you provide your view on incorporating the concept of "digital safety by design" into Government policy making regarding online safety?
4. Please outline the resources and support measures available for children and families who have experienced online harm, particularly cyberbullying or exposure to inappropriate content. Additionally, detail any information or data demonstrating the effectiveness of these resources.
5. Could you clarify your position on whether an Island-wide strategy to protect children from various forms of online harm is necessary? Provide your reasoning and outline potential benefits or limitations of implementing such a strategy.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. The Panel looks forward to your formal response and would request that this is received by **Monday 9th June 2025**.

Yours sincerely,



Deputy Catherine Curtis
Chair, Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel