

Our Ref: 236090

E Goodman
Chair of Campaign against Censorship
23 Budgen Drive
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department for
culture, media
and sport



host government
department

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Dear E Goodman

Thank you for your letter of 15 February to Jeremy Hunt MP about internet regulations. This matter falls within the portfolio of the Rt Hon Ed Vaizey MP, Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries. The Minister receives a large amount of correspondence every day and is unable to answer each one personally. I have been asked to reply and apologise for the severe delay in responding to you, which is due to the high levels of correspondence we have received on this issue.

The internet is a tremendous tool for education, fun and knowledge. As with any area of life, it is important that users, particularly children, are suitably protected. Many parents do not have the skills to do this and it is important that those parents receive the help they need.

The Government has no plans to introduce any censorship measures, and there are certainly no plans to block legal content or websites. The Government's guiding principle with regard to the internet remains that what's illegal off-line is also illegal online. Furthermore, there are no proposals for blocking, mass surveillance or any other extended data collection activity.

However, there is a need to ensure that there is an effective, light touch response to this rapidly changing media that respects adult freedoms but also enables parents make informed choices about what they and their children see and hear.

The Government is working with industry and other interested parties to find effective solutions to help keep children, young people and the vulnerable safe from illegal and harmful content. Self-regulatory and co-regulatory solutions will also be explored.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly 'H. S.', written over a horizontal line.

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT