WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY THE CONNÉTABLE OF ST. MARTIN
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2026
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2026

Question

"Will the Chief Minister advise –

(a) which Minister or Assistant Minister will be responsible for online safety during this political term;
(b) the proposed timeline for the Council of Ministers to lodge a proposition on online safety;
(c) what consideration, if any, the current Council of Ministers has given to requesting a Permissive Extent Clause for the UK's Online Safety Act 2023; and
(d) what engagement, if any, the Government of Jersey has had with the UK regarding the Online Safety Act 2023, and with the EU regarding the Digital Services Act and EU KIDS Act?"

Answer

a) The Chair of the Online Safety Ministerial Group is the Minister for Children and Families, who will lead Government policy to improve children and young people's safety, health and wellbeing online during this political term. He is supported by the following Ministers, as set out in the Terms of Reference for the Group:

- Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning
- Minister for Economic Development
- Minister for Justice and Home Affairs
- Minister for Health and Social Services
- Minister for External Relations

b) Action 7.2 of the Common Strategic Policy 2026 – 2030 commits the Government to strengthening online safety and cyber protection for children and young people. The Online Safety Ministerial Group will advise the Council of Ministers on a proposed workplan and timeline before the end of the year, which will include legislation, industry engagement and public awareness raising.

c) Developing a robust response to online safety for children and young people was discussed during the development of the Common Strategic Policy 2026–2030. The current Council of Ministers has not formally discussed requesting a Permissive Extent Clause (PEC) for the UK's Online Safety Act 2023, as future opportunities for requesting a PEC would require the UK Government to consider amending the primary legislation.

d) There has been continued engagement with various jurisdictions on this matter. Engagement with relevant UK counterparts continues at an officer level. Since June, two meetings have been held with UK Government officials responsible for online safety policy from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Separately, meetings have been held with EU counterparts on the Digital Services Act in January 2024, October 2024, October 2025 and February 2026. Officers continue to monitor EU developments to help inform Jersey's policy development.

Officers are also liaising with Guernsey's online safety policy officers and there are also early-stage discussions on the development of a proposed British Irish Council online safety workstream.