

States Greffe

Connétable Richard Vibert
Minister for Children and Families

BY EMAIL

24th February 2025

Dear Minister,

Scrutiny Review: What protection do children in Jersey have from online harms?

Further to our letter of 6th February 2025, you will be aware that the Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel is currently collecting evidence and information in relation to this review. The Panel has reviewed the Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES) policies, particularly, 'Keeping children safe in education' and the 'Online Safety Policy' and, as part of the evidence gathering process, the Panel would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions and requests for information.

Government policy

1. Per the Ministerial Responsibilities listed in [R.118/2024](#), you have responsibility for 'Co-ordinating policies to safeguard children and support children's well-being'. Please could you describe what work has been done, if any, to create or co-ordinate policies that will safeguard children from online harms and support children's well-being with regards to the digital world?
2. What work, if any, has been done to assess how existing Government policies protect all children from online harms?
 - (a) If applicable, please describe what this work has identified.
3. We understand that Children's Homes are not covered by the 'Online Safety Policy' but note that in the hearing on 4th October 2024, you confirmed that there is a strict filtering and monitoring service in place. Please could you provide the Panel with a copy of this policy and / or describe how it works in practice?
 - (a) Please could you confirm if there are policies and procedures for filtering and monitoring content accessible on mobile devices of children in the care of the Minister?
4. How is the Government of Jersey ensuring that it keeps pace with developments in other jurisdictions relating to online safety for all children?

Children's Rights

5. Article 17 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child refers to the right for children to have access to reliable information from the media and includes the requirement that "Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them".

Outside of the 'Online Safety Policy' and the 'Keeping children safe in education' policy, can you describe how the Government of Jersey protects children from online harms?

6. How will the Government of Jersey ensure that due regard is provided to the needs and rights of children who may be at risk of, or subjected to, online harms?

Legislation

7. At the public hearing on 4th October 2024 the Panel heard that Jersey would develop its own legislation relating to aspects of online safety. What can you tell us about Government progress to pursue legislation for online safety in Jersey?
 - (a) Please can you confirm if there will be a separate / specific piece of legislation, or if it will be solely dealt with through amendments to existing legislation.
8. What evaluation, if any, has been undertaken by Government to assess the protection that existing legislation provides for children against online harms, such as, inappropriate content, cyberbullying, scams, addictive behaviours, etc?
Please share details of any evaluation / assessment with the Panel, where possible.
9. What assessment, if any, has been undertaken by Government to confirm whether legislation elsewhere (for example the UK's Online Safety Act 2023 or the EU Digital Services Act) will impact content viewed by children in Jersey?

Training

10. Please can you describe and provide examples of how children in the care of the Minister are taught about safeguarding relating to their online safety?
11. Please can you describe and provide examples of how children are taught about safeguarding relating to their online safety in youth club settings?
12. Please can you describe and provide examples of how parents / carers are informed and provided with advice by youth clubs about children's access to online sites and online safety?
13. Please can you tell us about the online safety training that is provided to CYPES staff in the Jersey Youth Service and Children's Services?

Monitoring

14. How does the Jersey Youth Service fulfil its responsibilities (as per the 'Online Safety Policy') to "oversee and monitor the use of technology when children are in their care"?
 - (a) How is this managed when the children / young people may have access to mobile phones or other devices with internet access?
15. The CYPES policies highlight the importance of maintaining accurate records of online safety incidents. Please can you provide the Panel with data to confirm how many online safety incidents have been recorded across youth clubs in the previous five years?
[If possible, please can you break down any answer to identify the types of incidents that are recorded].



| States Assembly

We'd be grateful for a written response to be sent by **5 pm on Monday 3rd March 2025**. If you require a longer period of time to respond please liaise with the Panel's Committee and Panel Officer, Katherine de Carteret by email at k.decarteret@gov.je or telephone on 01534 441041.

Yours sincerely,

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