



States Greffe

Deputy Mary Le Hegarat
Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

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. As part of the evidence gathering process, the Panel would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions and requests for information:

1. For the period 2018 – 2024 in Jersey, how many **reports** have States of Jersey Police received of:
 - (a) Creating or downloading indecent images or videos of children;
 - (b) Online grooming or attempted grooming of a child;
 - (c) Online harassment of a child;
 - (d) Harmful activities where a child is recorded as a victim (e.g. fraud, scams, sale of illegal goods, identity theft, etc); and
 - (e) Threatening behaviour over a telecommunications system (if possible, with the data to differentiate between cases that have involved adults and / or children).
2. For the period 2018 – 2024 in Jersey, how many **convictions** have there been for:
 - (a) Creating or downloading indecent images or videos of children;
 - (b) Online grooming or attempted grooming of a child;
 - (c) Online harassment of a child;
 - (d) Harmful activities where a child is recorded as a victim (e.g. fraud, scams, sale of illegal goods, identity theft, etc); and
 - (e) Threatening behaviour over a telecommunications system (if possible, with the data to differentiate between cases that have involved adults and / or children).
3. 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?
4. Please can you tell us about any work that has been done to assess how new legislation to protect against online harms would be enforced?
5. Please can you tell us more about the work commissioned to the Refuge Technology Facilitated Abuse Team that you referenced in the public hearing on 4th October 2024?
6. What work, if any, have you undertaken with other Ministers, or within Justice and Home Affairs, to ensure that the Government of Jersey will provide due regard to the

protection of children who may be at risk of, or subjected to, online harms? *Please provide details about this, where applicable.*

7. You have Ministerial responsibility for 'Justice policy' and 'Criminal justice and community safety policy'. Please could you describe how, or if, the protection of children from online harms is considered within, or coordinated into any policy work you are responsible for?

(a) If relevant, how does the department keep pace with developments in other jurisdictions relating to online safety for children?

8. As Minister for Justice and Home Affairs, what is your opinion about balancing the need for individual freedom of speech and expression with increasing legislation or regulations that impose restrictions around content that is shared online?

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