



States Greffe

Deputy Kirsten Morel
Minister for Sustainable Economic Development

BY EMAIL

17th March 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:

Digital Economy policy

1. Please can you outline the priorities and objectives of the Digital Economy Programme?
2. Can you describe how the policy development for the Digital Economy Programme considers online safety for citizens in Jersey?
3. Please could you describe any work that has been done, or is planned, as part of the Digital Economy Programme to consider suitable protection for the public, particularly children, from online harms?
4. Minister, in the public hearing with the Panel on 4th October 2024 you highlighted the importance of freedom of expression on the internet. In your opinion, how should the right to access information be balanced with protection from harmful information or materials?
 - a. Should there be any additional protection in place for children and young people and, if so, how could this be achieved?
5. Minister, in the public hearing with the Panel on 4th October 2024 you confirmed that the Government of Jersey undertakes regular consultation and receives representations from external parties and industry about digital policy and the digital economy strategy. To what extent has feedback been provided about how the Government should approach further legislation or regulation of online spaces or digital technologies?

Legislation

6. Please can you provide the Panel with a copy of the analysis you received in November 2022 (and any other relevant documentation) which was used to inform your decision to reject the permissive extent of the UK's Online Safety Act for Jersey.

7. In the public hearing with the Panel on 4th October 2024 you outlined the advantages of Jersey pursuing its own legislation for online safety. Can you outline what disadvantages, if any, have been identified?
8. 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, such as the [Telecommunications \(Jersey\) Law 2002](#), etc?
9. Will Jersey legislate to provide protection for children from harmful content that is not illegal (for example violence, hate speech, or requiring age assurance to prevent children accessing pornography)?
10. The [Data Protection \(Jersey\) Law 2018](#) states that a child under the age of 13 may not give valid consent to the processing of their personal data by a controller for the purposes of an information society service. Please could you provide the Panel with some further details about this and explain what practical protection, if any, it provides Jersey children from online harms?

Technology

11. We understand from the [Minister for Justice and Home Affairs](#) that the takedown and data management of on-line material relies on arrangements and discussions with service providers, and that this is in your area of responsibility. Please could you share some more information about how this works in practice?
12. What relationship does the Government of Jersey have, if any, with big tech companies (such as Google) or social media platforms and what confidence do you have that they would ensure their platforms were suitable for the domestic law in Jersey?
13. Please could you describe the extent that the Government of Jersey has built relationships with law making and enforcement bodies in other jurisdictions (for example Ofcom)?
14. Other jurisdictions have brought in legislation to prevent illegal and harmful activities online (e.g. the Online Safety Act in the United Kingdom, or the Digital Services Act in the European Union). Is there a risk that Jersey-based users could be classed as a “rest of the world” category when accessing certain websites?
 - a. Please could you provide the Panel with details about how this aspect has been assessed in your response.
15. Please can you describe whether the Government of Jersey has undertaken any research or work to assess the impact of algorithms for internet users on Island?
16. How is the Government of Jersey ensuring that it keeps pace with developments in other jurisdictions relating to digital technologies and cyber security?

We'd be grateful for a written response to be sent by 5 pm on 31st 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