

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

8th August 2022

Dear Constance,

RE: SCRAP THE ONLINE SAFETY BILL

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the *Online Safety Bill*. I have read your comments with interest.

The *Online Safety Bill*, which will make the UK the safest place to go online, completed its first day of Report Stage in the House of Commons on the 12th July 2022.

The Bill had been scheduled to complete its second and final day of Report Stage the following week. However, parliamentary business changed owing to a vote of confidence in the Government and, as a result, regrettably the Report Stage was postponed.

I appreciate you sharing your concerns about platforms removing content. However, the Bill strengthens people's rights to express themselves freely online and ensures social media companies are not removing legal free speech. For the first time, users will have the right to appeal if they feel their post has been taken down unfairly. Furthermore, the Bill also puts requirements on social media firms to protect journalism and democratic political debate on their platforms.

I note you would like the *Online Safety Bill* to be scrapped entirely. I disagree with your position, as recent research from Ipsos has shown that seven in ten adults want social media firms to do more to tackle harmful content and over four in five adults are concerned about harmful content online. Therefore, I look forward to the Bill returning to the House of Commons in the autumn session.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,
Tom

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE