

Evolution Business Centre,
6 County Business Park,
Darlington Road, Northallerton,
North Yorkshire,
DL6 2NQ.
01765 688827

admin@mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk

www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk

Dear Ofcom

Please see attached an Illegal Harms Consultation Response form completed by Marie Collins Foundation.

Our consultation response has been informed by two members of staff with lived experience of technology-assisted CSA and we have incorporated, as far as possible, key messages and insight from our direct work with victims, survivors, children, and families.

However, we would like to take this opportunity to address the inaccessibility of this consultation for those with lived experience. The sheer volume of documents, and technical language has made the consultation difficult even for us professionals to digest and formulate responses to. We are disappointed that Ofcom has not provided the opportunity for those who are most impacted and have significant insight into the issues, to appropriately engage with this consultation.

We coordinate a very active lived experience group, who are every keen to be involved in decision making around the safety of children online. They have previously been involved in the consultation on legislative bills including the Victim and Prisoners Bill, which provided an accessible opportunity for those with lived experience to consult in a meaningful way. We believe that similar opportunities should have been implemented by Ofcom.

For example, we were privileged to attend the NWG workshop with Ofcom to consult on this as a collective group of professionals. But we believe Ofcom has missed an opportunity to implement similar workshops with victims and survivors of online harms.

The Illegal Harms response could have been the perfect opportunity to pave the way for inclusion of lived experience throughout the whole of the consultation period. We would ask that you consider extending the consultation period in order to hold such workshops with a variety of people with lived experience including organised groups and individuals, and that this is built into all future consultation processes.

Yours sincerely,

Marie Collins Foundation