

Jonathan Rose
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Northern Ireland Assembly
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29 October 2021
By email only

Dear Peter

Committee Stage: Defamation Bill

Thank you for your letter dated 17 September regarding the Committee for Finance's call for evidence on the Defamation Bill.

Having consulted with Ofcom colleagues on the matter, we do not feel it is appropriate for Ofcom to input to this process.

However, in a related matter, you may be aware that the UK Government is planning to grant Ofcom powers in relation to online safety. The scale and scope of these responsibilities have yet to be firmed up and the Online Safety Bill is currently at the Pre-legislative Scrutiny stage at Westminster.

We will keep Northern Ireland Government Departments and elected representatives abreast of developments in this area as and when they occur. It may be that in time, there are opportunities for Ofcom to provide an update to the Committee on these responsibilities.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Rose
Director, Northern Ireland