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Online appendix – detailed timeline of the Petitions Committee inquiries into ‘online abuse and the experiences of disabled people’ and ‘online harms’

27 March 2017 – e-Petition 190627 ‘Make online abuse a specific criminal offence and create a register of offenders’ published. The petition was created by Katie Price, a well-known UK media personality (<https://petition.parliament.uk/archived/petitions/190627>, last accessed 2 November 2021)

28 March 2017 – Government response threshold (10,000 signatures) for e-Petition 190627 reached.

29 March 2017 – Consideration for debate threshold (100,000 signatures) for e-Petition 190627 reached.

18 April 2017 – Government response to e-Petition 190627 published.

7 May 2017 – e-Petition 190627 closed early due to General Election. 221,915 signatures.

24 January 2018 – Petitions Committee inquiry into online abuse and the experiences of disabled people announced (<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/326/petitions-committee/news/99273/online-abuse-investigation-launched-following-petition-started-by-katie-price/>, last accessed 2 November 2021).

January-September 2018 – Written evidence received from a total of 18 civil society organisations and private individuals (all written evidence available at <https://old.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/petitions-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/online-abuse-17-19/publications/>, last accessed 2 November 2021)

6 February 2018 – Petitions Committee evidence session with:

- Katie Price, petition creator, and Amy Price.
- Anne Novis MBE, disability campaigner, Inclusion London; Andie Gbedemah, Public Affairs Officer, Dimensions; and Amy Clarke, Digital Assistant, and Rob Holland, Parliamentary Manager, Mencap.

(All inquiry transcripts available at: <https://old.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/petitions-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/online-abuse-17-19/publications/>, last accessed 2 November 2021).

6 February 2018 – Scope hosts two-week web thread on its community (forum) web pages (<https://community.scope.org.uk/discussion/40132/have-you-been-affected-by-online-abuse-in-any-way?>, last accessed 2 November 2021).

20 February 2018 – Petitions Committee hosts roundtable event in Westminster. A total of 26 people attend, the ‘vast majority of whom identified as disabled’.

28 February 2018 – Petition Committee visits visited the Royal Mencap Society head office to speak to the Mencap digital champions about their experience of using social media, with 5-7 digital champions in attendance.

24 April 2018 - Petitions Committee evidence session with:

- Paul Giannasi OBE, Cross-Government Hate Crime Programme Manager; Detective Inspector John Donovan, Online Hate Crime Hub, Metropolitan Police Service; and Superintendent Edward De La Rue, Brighton and Hove Division, Sussex Police.

19 June 2018 – Petitions Committee evidence session with:

- Karim Palant, UK Public Policy Manager, Facebook; Katie O’Donovan, Public Policy Manager, Google; and Nick Pickles, UK Head of Public Policy and Government, Twitter.

18 July 2018 – Chair of Petitions Committee writes to the PFA (responds 1 August 2018); the Premier League (responds 23 January 2019); the FA (no response); the English Football League (no response); and Kick It Out (no response) (All correspondence available at: <https://old.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/petitions-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/online-abuse-17-19/publications/>, last accessed 2 November 2021).

3 August 2018 – Petitions Committee report ‘Online abuse and the experience of disabled people: draft recommendations for consultation’ published, accompanied by large print and Easy Read formats (HC 1459).

28 August 2018 – Comments thread opened on House of Commons Facebook page, open until 3 September 2018. The Facebook post was seen by 16,654 accounts. It was clicked on 842 times and there were 924 “engagements” with the post, including reactions, comments and shares (<https://www.facebook.com/UKHouseofCommons/posts/694900887575700>, last accessed 2 November 2021).

August-October 2018 - Petitions Committee hosts a series of face-to-face engagement events in Belfast, Newcastle, Glasgow and Swansea to discuss draft recommendations. Between 8-15 attended each event, all of whom identified as disabled.

August 2018 – Online survey hosted by the Committee Office social media support team. The survey was open for 4 weeks, and completed by 208 respondents.

16 October 2018 – Petitions Committee hosts face-to-face engagement event in Westminster to discuss draft recommendations. Attended by 16 people, with a range of disabilities.

22 January 2019 – ‘Online abuse and the experience of disabled people’ inquiry final report published, accompanied by Shorthand, large print, Easy Read and audio formats (HC 759).

5 February 2019 – Chair of the Petitions Committee writes to the Director of the Premier League (responds 21 March 2019).

12 February 2019 – e-Petition 239444 ‘Make online homophobia a specific criminal offence’ published. The petition was (again) created by Bobby Norris, a well-known UK reality TV star (<https://petition.parliament.uk/archived/petitions/239444>, last accessed 2 November 2021).

13 February 2019 – Government response threshold (10,000 signatures) for e-Petition 239444 reached.

28 February 2019 – Government response to e-Petition 239444 published.

28 March 2019 – Revised Government response to e-Petition 239444 published.

21 April 2019 – Consideration for debate threshold (100,000 signatures) for e-Petition 239444 reached.

25 April 2019 – Government response published, accompanied by large print format.

29 April 2019 – Debate on e-Petition 190627 held in Westminster Hall. Broadcast live on parliamentlive.tv, and with simultaneous captions and BSL interpretation (transcript available at: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-04-29/debates/96766449-2215-42b7-90ca-456afe15c045/WestminsterHall>, recording available at: <https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/9bbd1090-b3d6-4c09-aa25-9ccbae7864cf?in=16:30:00>)

1 July 2019 – Debate on e-Petition 239444 held in Westminster Hall.

12 August 2019 – e-Petition 239444 closed. 153,506 signatures.

10 September 2019 – e-Petition 272087 ‘Hold online trolls accountable for their online abuse via their IP address’ published. The petition was (again) created by Bobby Norris, a well-known UK reality TV star (<https://petition.parliament.uk/archived/petitions/272087>, 21 November 2021).

11 September 2019 – Government response threshold (10,000 signatures) for e-Petition 272087 reached.

13 September 2019 – Consideration for debate threshold (100,000 signatures) for e-Petition 272087 reached.

24 September 2019 – Government response to e-Petition 272087 published.

6 November 2019 – e-Petition 272087 closed early due to General Election. 133,680 signatures.

12 May 2020 – Petitions Committee decides to investigate how to tackle online abuse, and to take oral evidence from the creator of this petition. This decision is described as ‘the Petitions Committee’s first step in a new inquiry on tackling online abuse. The inquiry will consider

issues raised in a number of petitions, and follow up on the Petitions Committee's previous inquiry into online abuse and the experiences of disabled people' (<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/307/tackling-online-abuse/news/114994/petitions-committee-heard-evidence-on-online-abuse-from-the-only-way-is-essex-star/>, last accessed 2 November 2021).

21 May 2020 – Petitions Committee evidence session with:

- Bobby Norris, petition creator.

(All inquiry transcripts available at: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/307/tackling-online-abuse/publications/>, last accessed 2 November 2021).

24 June 2020 – Online abuse inquiry formally launched, with call for written evidence (<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/307/tackling-online-abuse/news/114989/katie-price-to-give-evidence-to-petitions-committee-as-new-online-abuse-inquiry-launched/>, last accessed 2 November 2021).

2 July 2020 – Petitions Committee evidence session with:

- Katie Price and Amy Price.

7 October 2020 – Debate held in Westminster Hall on 'Online Harms', incorporating e-petition 272087, broadcast live on parliamentlive.tv (transcript available at: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2020-10-07/debates/E70A853B-6CBE-4215-9035-30AB3E490798/OnlineHarms>, recording available at: <https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/aad8d239-7905-49b7-a217-33530de02d33?in=14:29:51>, last accessed 2 November 2021).

5 March 2021 – e-Petition 575833 'Make verified ID a requirement for opening a social media account' published. The petition was the second created by Katie Price, a well-known UK media personality (<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/575833>, last accessed 2 November 2021).

10 March 2021 – Government response threshold (10,000 signatures) for e-Petition 575833 reached.

10 March 2021 – Consideration for debate threshold (100,000 signatures) for e-Petition 575833 reached.

5 May 2021 – Government response to e-Petition 575833 published.

12 May 2021 – Publication of the Government's draft Online Safety Bill (CP 405).

October-November 2021 - The Petitions Committee, working with Parliament's Education and Engagement and Select Committee Engagement teams, designed a session to be run in schools. The school session was run in at least 12 schools. The session was run with year groups ranging from year 9 (13–14 year-olds) to year 13 (17–18 year-olds). Committee

members attended four of the sessions in person or remotely. A total of 500 individual survey responses were received from these schools.

2 November 2021 – Petitions Committee evidence session with:

- Nancy Kelley, Chief Executive at Stonewall; Matthew Harrison, Public Affairs and Parliamentary Manager at The Royal Mencap Society; Chara Bakalis, Principal Lecturer at Oxford Brookes University; Danny Stone MBE, Chief Executive at Antisemitism Policy Trust; Ruth Smeeth, Chief Executive at Index on Censorship; Dr Joe Mulhall, Head of Research at HOPE not hate.

16 November 2021 – Petitions Committee evidence session with:

- Seyi Akiwowo, Founder and CEO at Glitch; Andy Burrows, Head of Child Safety Online Policy at NSPCC; Stephen Kinsella OBE, Founder at Clean up the Internet; Ellen Judson, Senior Researcher at Demos; William Perrin OBE, Trustee at Carnegie UK; Dr Bertie Vidgen, Research Fellow at The Alan Turing Institute.

23 November 2021 – Petitions Committee evidence session with:

- Dr Nicholas Hoggard, Lawyer at Law Commission; Professor Penny Lewis, Commissioner at Law Commission; Katy Minshall, Head of UK Public Policy at Twitter; Rebecca Stimson, UK Head of Public Policy at Meta; Theo Betram, Director of Government Relations and Public Policy for Europe at TikTok.

1 December 2021 – Petitions Committee evidence session with:

- Chris Philip MP, Minister for Tech and Digital Economy at Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport; Orla MacRae, Deputy Director for Online Harms Regulation at Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

1 February 2022 – Petitions Committee report ‘Tackling online abuse’ published (HC 766).

17 March 2022 – First reading of the Online Safety Bill (Bill 285).

28 March 2022 – ‘Tackling Online Abuse: Government Response to the Committee’s Second Report’ published (HC 1224).

19 April 2022 – Second reading of the Online Safety Bill (Bill 285).

Current status (as of April 2022) – The Petition Committee’s inquiry is now completed, and a government response has been received. The Online Safety Bill continues its passage through Parliament.