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Rt Hon Christopher Grayling MP
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Thank you for your letter of 24 July regarding correspondence from your constituents concerned at potential censorship of the internet. I apologise for the time it has taken to respond to your letter.

On the issue of banning material which some people may find offensive, the Government believes that the right to freedom of opinion and expression is a vital component of a free democratic society. We have a long tradition of freedom of speech in the United Kingdom; however, we have been clear of the need to balance the right to freedom of speech with adequate protections.

The Government also has a strong focus on ensuring that the internet is a safe space for children to operate in. As such, we have been working closely with industry, academia, charities and law enforcement, through the UK Council on Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) to develop measures to keep children and vulnerable people safe online.

Under the auspices of UKCCIS a number of measures to protect children online have been progressed, including internet service providers (ISPs) developing internet parental controls which can be used by parents to filter content inappropriate for their children.

Ensuring a safe internet, but one which does not curtail legitimate behaviour or freedoms is an important and challenging goal.

Rt Hon Maria Miller MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
and Minister for Women and Equalities

