



# Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

Dear Sir/Madam.

Praesidio Safeguarding have been appointed by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to conduct research, through the form of individual and small group qualitative interviews and large-scale quantitative data collection, until the period ending April 2021. Praesidio is an independent safeguarding agency which delivers strategic advice, research, training and investigations.

This project is looking at the methods that online platforms may use to know the age of their users and is part of DCMS's work on online safety. The project is in response to recent and emerging legislation that requires companies to know the age of their users and provide child users with adequate safeguards. The Government wants to make sure that children are more supported and protected by such measures but also wants to ensure that children who are already vulnerable would not be excluded by the methods used to determine their age. The aim of this project is to try and better understand whether the methods to determine the age of users has the potential risk of excluding or disadvantaging some groups of children from the benefits of the internet.

In order to gather as much relevant data as possible, Praesidio Safeguarding are distributing digital surveys throughout the UK. We would appreciate your support in helping to share their surveys in whatever means you feel appropriate.

If you have any queries for the DCMS regarding this research, please contact me using the details below.

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