



04 December 2023

Dear Clare Everett,

Thank you for your letter and the accompanying Regulation 28 report following the investigation into the death of Bronwen Grace Morgan.

I note that the report has also been sent to The Rt Hon Lucy Frazer KC MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and Ofcom.

I am aware of this tragic case and my thoughts are with Bronwen's family and friends during this incredibly difficult time. I am committed to ensuring that our services continue to learn from tragedies like this to ensure safe, compassionate and person-centred care.

As you may be aware, the Welsh Government gave legislative consent for the UK Government to introduce provisions within the Online Safety Act which makes it a criminal offence to encourage or assist serious self-harm via online communications. The Act confers new powers on the Office of Communications (Ofcom) enabling them to act as the online safety regulator and is a positive step forward in strengthening our ability to limit access to harmful online content which promotes, encourages and/or assists in serious self-harm.

The UK Government are now seeking further legislative consent from Welsh Government to introduce provisions within the Criminal Justice Bill which will broaden the scope of Section 184 of the Online Safety Act and make it a criminal offence to encourage or assist serious self-harm via online communication and other non-communicable methods (e.g. the passing of a blade). Welsh Government is currently considering the draft Bill and the UK Government's request for consent.

Welsh Government has a role to play in the implementation of the new provisions, in conjunction with UK Government implementation plans, to ensure that Welsh citizens, businesses and wider stakeholders are aware of, and ready for, the changes. As part of this Welsh Government will actively engage with, and contribute to, the three phases of

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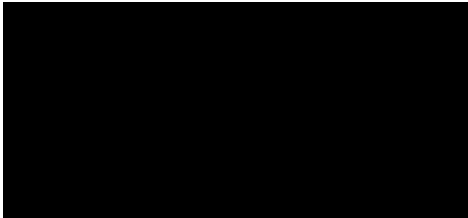
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

consultation to be launched by Ofcom as the regulator. We will also take more focussed steps to safely communicate with our communities and service providers to raise awareness of the new legislation.

The Welsh Government is currently in the process of developing our new Suicide and Self-harm Strategy for Wales. The Strategy has already been the subject of pre-consultation exercises with key stakeholders and the draft Strategy is due to go out to public consultation next year setting out the proposed policy objectives we will be taking forward to deliver our over-arching vision for reducing self-harm and suicide in Wales. This will provide the policy context for more detailed discussions with our stakeholders on the actions that need to be taken forward in the short-medium term to tackle the causes of, and the responses to suicide and self-harm. Those actions will be detailed in an Action Plan which will be monitored and updated in light of progress, evidence and research. As part of that process we will specifically explore other opportunities to draw on lessons learned from tragic events like this and what further action we can take to prevent them from happening again.

Yours sincerely,



Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing