RESPONSE TO A REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS
REGULATION 29 OF THE CORONERS (INVESTIGATIONS) REGULATIONS 2013

Please do not include any living persons' names in this document, in accordance with the Chief Coroner's PFD Publication Policy (2026).

THIS RESPONSE IS BEING SENT TO:

The Senior Coroner, Rachel Knight for the Coroner Area South Wales Central in response to a '**REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATH REGULATION 28'** following an inquest into the death of **Cai Rhys Davies** that concluded on **date unconfirmed in the Regulation 28 report**.

1.	**RESPONDENT** In line with our duty under Regulation 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, [redacted], **Cabinet Minister for Education and the Welsh Language and** [redacted], **Trefnydd,** [redacted] **and Cabinet Minister for Culture and Sport** provide this response within 56 days (plus any extension granted) of the date of the Report to Prevent Future Deaths.
2.	**DATE OF RESPONSE** **22nd September 2026**
3.	**CONFIRMATION OF CORONER'S MATTERS OF CONCERN** The **MATTERS OF CONCERN** identified in the report are as follows: "A lack of awareness and education amongst the general public, both young and old around unsolicited social media approaches, and the danger of sextortion scamming, which may lead to further deaths."
4.	**DETAILS OF ACTION TAKEN,** how has the concern been addressed. [If no action is proposed please explain why here]. *Please note that any links to webpages included in the response will not be checked for sensitive information prior to publication, as the information is already online.* **Responsibilities for online safety** Telecommunications and internet services are reserved to the UK Government under schedule 7A to the Government of Wales Act 2006 and the Senedd does not therefore have competence to make legislation relating to those subject matters. Under the Online Safety Act 2023, Ofcom is the UK's independent

	online safety regulator and is responsible for implementing and enforcing the Act. The consequences of online harm extend across devolved areas, however, including education, children, mental health, well-being and social services. The Welsh Ministers have a range of executive powers to enable them to support people in Wales, particularly children and younger people, to develop digital resilience, recognise and respond to online risks and to seek help if exposed to online abuse. The Welsh Government will continue to engage with the UK Government and Ofcom on current and emerging online safety risks and their implications for devolved responsibilities. A meeting between Welsh Government Ministers and Ofcom's Wales Director is planned for October 2026 and will provide an opportunity to discuss current and future priorities, including responses to emerging forms of online exploitation. **Education and prevention** Support for children and young people Through the Curriculum for Wales, learners aged 3 to 16 are supported to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to build healthy relationships and navigate online and offline environments safely and responsibly. Learning about healthy relationships, empowerment, safety and respect is a mandatory element of the Curriculum for Wales within the "The Curriculum for Wales - Relationships and Sexuality Education Code". This learning is intended to help learners recognise harmful, abusive, coercive or manipulative behaviour, respond appropriately and understand how and where to seek support for themselves or others. Schools, practitioners, learners and families can also access online safety guidance, resources and professional learning through Hwb, the learning and teaching platform for Wales. These resources support awareness of online risks and promote safe, responsible and informed digital engagement. Support for practitioners The Welsh Government has commissioned South West Grid for Learning, a nationally recognised online safety organisation and partner in the UK Safer Internet Centre, to develop a single set of non-statutory online safety guidance for school staff. The organisation has extensive experience of supporting governments, schools and safeguarding practitioners to address online harms and promote the safe use of technology by children and young people.

	Subject to the necessary development and approval processes, the guidance is expected to be issued for a 12-week public consultation in February 2027. Consultation responses will be considered before the final guidance is published, which is planned for the end of the current academic year. As part of this work, officials will review whether existing guidance and resources provide sufficiently clear information about unsolicited online approaches, coercion, exploitation, warning signs and routes to support. The review will consider provision for children, young people and adults, including whether further public-facing information, communications or awareness-raising activity is required. Officials will also continue to work with partners across education, safeguarding, online safety and law enforcement to consider how established channels and networks can be used to strengthen awareness among learners, parents, carers and the wider public. **Wider public awareness and support** The Welsh Government recognises that media literacy and digital resilience are important beyond formal education. Through wider digital inclusion and resilience activity, we seek to help people develop the critical skills required to engage safely with online information, services and communications. We are considering the implications for devolved responsibilities of legislative proposals by the UK Government relating to children and young people's access to social media and certain high-risk online features. We will continue to consider emerging evidence, including evidence about the potential effects of online safety measures on suicide prevention and self-harm and the risk of unintended consequences. Support to people, including vulnerable people, children and young people People affected by online exploitation or coercion should be treated with compassion and without stigma. Our focus is on supporting those affected, strengthening awareness and prevention, promoting appropriate routes to specialist help and working with relevant partners to ensure that perpetrators are held to account. Support to people over the age of 18 The Live Fear Free helpline can respond to enquiries relating to violence and abuse and direct people to appropriate specialist services according to their needs. This includes referral or signposting to specialist services for adults affected by intimate images that have been shared, or threatened to be shared,

	without consent, in particular services such as the Revenge Porn Helpline and StopNCII.org, a free tool designed to support victims of Non-Consensual Intimate Image (NCII) abuse. Support for children and young people Advice, guidance and support is available for children and young people who may be experiencing sextortion or are concerned that imagery of them may be shared online. Through a partnership between Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), the Report Remove service enables children and young people under 18 to confidentially report sexual images or videos of themselves that have been shared online. This service provides support specifically to children and young people affected by sexually motivated extortion and other forms of online abuse. The IWF then works to secure the removal of this illegal content from the internet, while Childline offers counselling and emotional support throughout the process. This service provides direct support for children and young people to stay safe and recover from these harms. As part of the proposed review of existing information and resources, officials will consider whether routes to support are presented clearly for both children and adults and whether further signposting is required. **Suicide prevention and self-harm** The Welsh Government's priorities for preventing suicide and supporting people who self-harm are set out in *Understanding: The Suicide Prevention and Self-harm Strategy for Wales*, published on 1 April 2025. The strategy provides a ten-year framework for building understanding, strengthening prevention and intervention, and providing compassionate support to people who self-harm, experience suicidal thoughts or have been affected by suicide. The accompanying three-year Delivery Plan sets out actions for 2025 to 2028. Social media will be a research priority during the second year of delivery. This will include consideration of evidence about its influence on suicide and self-harm, the possible effects of online safety measures and restrictions, and any unintended harms that could arise from restrictions on access to social media. Support to practitioners and those supporting children and young people Supporting delivery of the Strategy in 2019 we published 'Responding to issues of self-harm and thoughts of suicide in young people Guidance for teachers, professionals, volunteers and youth services'. This practical guide provides information for adults who work with children and young people regarding how to respond to issues of suicide and self-harm. It addresses how to ask questions of children and young people who may have suicidal feelings or be

	self-harming, and how to respond to disclosure of these feelings and behaviours. It provides guidance on confidentiality, safeguarding and routes of escalation. The guidance is currently in the process of being updated to reflect activity and societal changes that have taken place since 2019. Safeguarding people who may be particularly vulnerable Support to vulnerable people We recognise that some people, including people with a learning disability or neurodivergent people, may be particularly vulnerable to online exploitation. Officials will continue to work across relevant policy areas to support delivery of the Suicide Prevention and Self-harm Strategy, reduce the risks of suicide and self-harm, and improve awareness of online harms affecting people who may be particularly vulnerable. The Welsh Government is also developing a Neurodivergence Code of Practice. This work is intended to support a preventative, person-centred and neuro-inclusive approach, including early intervention, reasonable adjustments, safeguarding awareness and effective multi-agency working across health, social care, education and the voluntary sector. We expect that consultation on the new Code will begin in January 2027 with a view to publishing in October 2027, Support to children and young people and families and those affected by adversity in childhood We further recognise the association between childhood adversity, trauma and poorer mental health and well-being. Exposure to adverse childhood experiences can increase the likelihood of health-harming behaviours during adolescence, including self-harm, and may make some young people particularly vulnerable to exploitation. Our work to prevent childhood adversity is supported by early-years and family programmes intended to strengthen individual and family resilience. We are encouraging the development of trauma-informed services through our support for the implementation of the Trauma-Informed-Wales-Framework.pdf. This means services understand the widespread impact of trauma and deliver support with kindness, compassion, empathy and understanding, and operate in ways which avoid creating stigma, shame, and re-traumatisation. Support for the protection of children and adults at riskThe new Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence National Strategy commissioned by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Minister for Social Justice and Equality will support a whole-government, whole-system, whole-society and prevention-led approach to tackle all forms of gender-based violence, including online exploitation. It is intended to establish clear

	accountability across relevant ministerial portfolios, with the new strategy and action plan planned for summer 2027.Wales Safeguarding Procedures The All Wales Practice Guides support implementation of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures and help practitioners meet their statutory safeguarding duties under Part 7 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. These include duties relating to the protection of children and adults at risk and the reporting of safeguarding concerns. Supporting professionals to keep children safe An All Wales Practice Guide on safeguarding children and young people from online abuse is available to support practitioners responding to online safeguarding concerns. Although the Wales Safeguarding Procedures apply to children and adults at risk, there is currently no equivalent practice guide specifically addressing online harm and abuse affecting adults at risk. Officials will encourage the Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Board to consider the case for developing adult-focused guidance. Any decision on the development and scope of a further practice guide will be a matter for the Project Board.
5.	**DETAILS OF FURTHER ACTION PROPOSED** *Please note that any links to webpages included in the response will not be checked for sensitive information prior to publication, as the information is already online.* In response to the concern identified in your Report, the Welsh Government will: • review existing guidance and resources for children and adults to assess whether they provide sufficiently clear information about unsolicited online approaches, coercion and exploitation, including warning signs and routes to support; • use the findings of the review to determine whether further guidance, public communications or awareness-raising activity is required; • develop and consult on new non-statutory online safety guidance for schools, with consultation expected to begin in February 2027 and final publication planned for the end of the current academic year; • progress the development of the new national online safety programme for schools in Wales, which is planned for launch by July 2027; • work with partners across education, safeguarding, online safety and law enforcement to strengthen prevention and awareness and make

	effective use of established communication channels; • continue to implement *Understanding: The Suicide Prevention and Self-harm Strategy for Wales* through its Delivery Plan for 2025 to 2028, including the planned research focus on social media, online harms, suicide and self-harm; • develop the new Neurodivergence Code of Practice, with consultation commencing in January 2027 with a view to publication in October 2027; • continue cross-government work to improve awareness and support for people who may be particularly vulnerable to online exploitation; • ask the Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Board to consider the case for developing guidance addressing online abuse affecting adults at risk; • promote clear and appropriate routes to specialist support for children and adults affected by online exploitation and coercion; and • continue engagement with the UK Government and Ofcom on emerging online safety risks and the implications of regulatory developments for devolved responsibilities in Wales. These actions will form part of the Welsh Government's wider commitment to strengthening digital resilience, preventing harm and helping people affected by online exploitation to access appropriate support. We will continue to review our approach as the evidence and nature of online risks develop.
6.	**SIGNATURE**  Cabinet Minister for Education and Welsh Language
	 Trefnydd, Chief Whip and Cabinet Minister for Culture and Sport