



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

February 2020

Dear Constituents,

Thank you for contacting me about the relationship between social media and child suicide.

I was devastated to read about Molly Russell's story and extremely concerned by concerns raised by her father of the explicit content she viewed on social media and how this may have been a factor in her suicide.

Social media has the potential to be a power for good, but too often these platforms contain inappropriate content, particularly for young people.

Like most other people, I want social media platforms to take more responsibility for the content they host. They need to do more to safeguard children and young people who use their services. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Home Office published a White Paper earlier this year setting out the Government's plans to introduce new legislation. The White Paper set out the responsibilities of social media companies to keep their users safe, how these responsibilities should be met and what would happen if they are not. At present, the consultation responses to this White Paper are being analysed.

With a £2.3bn a year uplift in funding for mental health services by 2023/24, I am pleased to see that the NHS Long Term Plan will ensure more support for young people's mental health, including providing NHS funded mental health services and school or college-based Mental Health Support Teams to an additional 345,000 children and young people by 2023/24. Within the next ten years, the goal is to ensure that 100 per cent of children and young people who need specialist care can access it.



I will continue to monitor this situation closely.

Thank you again for taking time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris".

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**