

Rt Hon Ian Murray MP
Minister of State
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
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Dear Minister of State,

Re: Use of X for Official Government Communications and Enforcement of UK Law

On behalf of the Public Relations and Communications Association (PRCA), we are writing to add our voice to the concerns recently raised by Members of Parliament regarding the Government's continued use of the platform X for official communications, and the calls for appropriate enforcement action where content published on the platform may have breached UK law.

As the UK's professional body for public relations and communications, the PRCA is committed to upholding high standards of transparency, responsibility and public trust in communications, particularly where they originate from public authorities. The platforms chosen by government bodies to communicate official information are not neutral choices: they signal standards, confer legitimacy, and shape public expectations.

Considering recent developments and the issues raised publicly by MPs, the PRCA has taken the decision to stop posting on X. This decision reflects our concern about the platform's current environment and the potential implications for trust, accountability and legal compliance. We believe it is important to be transparent about this decision, and to explain the rationale behind it, particularly given our role as a professional body committed to promoting ethical and responsible communications practice.

We note the growing concern expressed in Parliament that content hosted on X may fail to meet the requirements of UK law, including obligations under the Online Safety Act, and that enforcement action may be warranted. In this context, the continued reliance on X for official government communications risks undermining public confidence, particularly if the platform is perceived to be operating without adequate accountability or compliance.

We understand that the Government Communications Service (GCS) is currently undertaking a review of the Government's use of X, and we would welcome an update on its progress. Given the significance of the issues at stake, we believe this review would benefit from clear ministerial oversight and accountability.

In that context, the PRCA's input into this review is to recommend that the Government ceases official use of X for communications. This recommendation is based on the concerns outlined above, including risks to public trust, questions around legal compliance, and the reputational implications of continued engagement with a platform whose governance and enforcement standards remain in doubt.

We believe it is essential that government communications are conducted on platforms that demonstrate a clear commitment to legal compliance, user safety, and responsible governance. Public bodies should be confident that the environments in which they operate reflect the standards expected of them.

The PRCA would welcome the opportunity to engage constructively with you and colleagues on these issues and to contribute our expertise on maintaining trust, accountability and best practice in public communications.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Waddington CBE

CEO

Public Relations and Communications Association (PRCA)