



Ref: JD325-181

22 August 2018

Mr Colm Murphy
Meetings Administrator Corporate Services Department
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24
D24 YNN5

Dear Mr Murphy

I wish to refer to your recent letter concerning your Motion in relation to Cocos Law (Ref M7/0618).

The Action Plan for Online Safety was launched by An Taoiseach on 11 July last. The Plan sets out actions across Government Departments and agencies that are being taken to protect children and adults in their online engagement in what is a particularly dynamic environment.

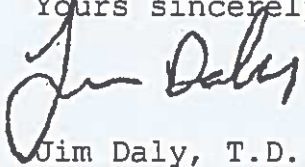
The Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Bill completed second stage in the Dáil in January 2018, and includes the criminalisation of on-line harassment amongst other things. The Minister for Justice and Equality will work to ensure that this Bill is enacted.

The Department of Health recognises the importance of Internet Safety, and is active in this area with several actions and initiatives, including Connecting for Life, the National Taskforce on Youth Mental Health, and online mental health support courses. Specifically, Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Strategy to reduce suicide, commits to engaging with online platforms to encourage best practice in reporting around suicidal behaviour, so as to encourage a safer online environment.

In addition, the Department, in conjunction with the HSE and its various service partners has a range of other policies and initiatives to promote positive mental health and resilience, including those specifically targeted at young people.

I hope that this information will be of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jim Daly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" being more prominent than the last name "Daly".

Jim Daly, T.D.

Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People