

Owen Chesterton

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the proposed powers to combat misinformation and disinformation.

The truth is not always clear, not always obvious and not always easily found.

The ability for everyone to discuss, debate and make up our own opinions is crucial for a well-functioning society.

Censorship reduces innovation, erodes trust and negatively impacts social cohesion.

Who is the arbiter of the truth? How do we know they are always right? What happens when the truth changes?

A good example of evolving truth is eggs, which were once healthy for us and then bad for us and now healthy once again.

The other concern is making government bodies exempt from these regulations. This would cause people to have a high level of distrust in all government information.

There are examples in my lifetime of when we were told a government 'truth' only to later discover it was not the case.

Such as the weapons of mass destruction held by Saddam Hussein and used as a justification to go to war.

This was harmful misinformation.

If such legislation was enacted, no one should be exempt.

Kind you for your time.

Owen Chesterton