

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to voice my complaint about the new online safety bill and how it will hurt sex workers.

The bill will be harmful to sex workers by making them vulnerable to malicious complaints and reports about our digital content, causing a chilling effect on platforms that could lead to accelerated de-platforming and loss of access to digital tools and services, including those used to advertise services or sell content as well as requiring the creation of restricted access systems to their online content.

Other businesses are able to use social media and online platforms to advertise. Sexual material should not be exceptionalised and treated disproportionately to other kinds of media. Sex work is a largely lawful industry and should not be subject to discriminatory regulations. Consensual sexually explicit material should not be considered equivalent to violent, harmful or abhorrent content. Sex workers require access to public online spaces and online economies as a matter of health, safety and digital and sexual citizenship. Sex workers already work to prevent minors from accessing inappropriate content through the use of paywalls, 18+ warnings and user verification pop-ups, and other methods, and as such are already working to ensure that their content is only viewed by adults. We should be meaningfully engaged in these discussions, not positioned as a 'problem' or liability for online safety.

Thank you,

Paul Wnuk