



Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP
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Nik Williams
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Response
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Our Ref:

Dear Mr Williams,

Thank you very much for your letter of 12 February, to the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, about the use of social media by certain MPs and ministers to target journalists. Your correspondence was passed to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and I am responding on behalf of the department.

The government is committed to a free and independent press and does not intervene in what the press can and cannot publish. This is vital to a strong and fully functioning democracy where the powerful can be held to account without fear.

The government agrees that the harassment of journalists and those working in the media is unacceptable and that is why we've established the National Committee for the Safety of Journalists. We will shortly be publishing a national action plan which looks at measures to address the abuse experienced.

I note that the tweets were not issued from a government Twitter account, but instead from a personal Twitter account. The Minister is personally responsible for deciding how to act and conduct herself, and for justifying her own actions. As such, this is a matter on which the Minister would be best placed to offer a response. I note the Prime Minister's press secretary has already provided comments on this matter.

Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP
Minister of State for Media and Data

