

Minutes of the Meeting of the National Advisory Council for Online Safety, 3 October 2019

1. Adoption of minutes of meeting of 8/5/19

- The minutes of the previous meeting of the Council on 8 May 2019 were agreed.
- **ACTIONS ARISING:**
 - Secretariat to finalise and publish minutes on the website of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (the **Department**).

2. Updates

- The chairperson (**Minister of State Seán Canney**) requested updates on the status of the draft research proposal and on the work of the Sponsors Group's to the Action Plan for Online Safety.
 - a. **Research Project – tendering for field research services**
- Brian O'Loughlin (Secretariat) gave an update on the draft research proposal, noting that IPSOS MRBI have been appointed to carry out the fieldwork and that the draft questionnaires would be finalised shortly. It is intended that the fieldwork would commence in the coming weeks.
 - b. **Work of Sponsors Group to Action Plan for Online Safety**
- Ruth Carmody gave an update on the work of the sponsors group to the Action Plan for Online Safety, including in relation to the Q1-Q2 2019 progress report which is due to be brought to Government shortly.

3. Presentation: Facebook – Oversight Board for Content Decisions

- Stephanie Anderson and Zoe Darne (Facebook) gave a presentation on Facebook's proposed Global Oversight Board for Content Decisions. They noted that the intention of this board was to provide a degree of diverse and independent oversight over decisions made by Facebook's content moderation and related trust and safety teams. It's not intended that this board would examine a large number of content cases but would instead review emblematic, controversial or difficult cases. The decisions of the board are intended to be binding on Facebook and the board may also make recommendations to Facebook regarding its content policies. It was noted that Facebook intends to have this board running by early 2020.

- The members of the Council posed a number of questions to the representatives from Facebook, including in relation to the appropriateness of Facebook setting up a quasi-regulatory body and on how Facebook would ensure trust in this new body. Questions were also asked about whether it is expected that the recommendations of this new body would have any practical effect on Facebook's content moderation policies and how Facebook intends to square different cultural and legal expectations while operating a global platform.

4. Update – Online Safety & Media Regulation Bill

- Ciarán Shanley (Secretariat) gave an update on the drafting of the general scheme of the proposed Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill. A brief overview of the main elements of the proposed Bill was provided to the Council. It was noted that Minister Bruton intends to bring the draft general scheme to Cabinet for approval before the end of the year.

5. Date of next meeting

- It was agreed that the Secretariat would revert with a suggested date for the next meeting.
- **ACTIONS ARISING:**
 - Secretariat to revert with a suggested date for the next meeting.

6. AOB

- N/A

Ciarán Shanley
NACOS Secretariat