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**Application for Executive Board membership: guidance**

**Deadline: 3 September 2018**

**Your chance to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online**

The UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) is a new collaborative forum through which government, the tech community and the third sector will work together to ensure the UK is the safest place in the world to be online.

Expanding the scope of the [UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS)](https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis), and guided by the government’s [Internet Safety Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/internet-safety-strategy-green-paper), UKCIS will help achieve a safer online experience for all users, particularly those who are disproportionately targets of online abuse.

Priority areas of focus will include online harms such as cyberbullying and sexual exploitation; radicalisation and extremism; violence against women and girls; hate crime and hate speech; and forms of discrimination against groups protected under the Equality Act, for example on the basis of disability or race. The new council will ensure an ongoing focus on protecting children, building on the pioneering work carried out by UKCCIS.

**How UKCIS will operate**

UKCIS will consist of a small Executive Board and a wider pool of Associate Member organisations, supported by a small secretariat team in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Together, UKCIS members will deliver a coordinated response to online harms through:

* *Evidence and debate:* UKCIS will be a forum for expert review and debate of the latest evidence of online harms, and implications for policies and platforms;
* *Hands-on collaboration****:*** Through its working groups, UKCIS will deliver practical projects to address common strategic goals; for example, improved guidance for parents and education professionals, and safety design guidelines for makers of interactive products;
* *Building a community of practice:* UKCIS will support and expand the community of practice around internet safety and strengthening communication across sectors.

UKCIS is a voluntary, non-statutory body, and does not receive any discrete funding. Draft terms of reference for the new council are [available on GOV.UK.](https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis)

**Role and composition of the Executive Board**

The UKCIS Executive Board brings together senior representatives from government departments, regulators, and enforcement agencies; industry bodies (social media platforms, operating system providers, sector representatives); and third sector organisations (charities, academia, support organisations).

Executive Board members will be responsible for setting the overall strategic focus of the Council. They will contribute their subject matter expertise to debates, decide on priorities for working groups, and help ensure that these groups are appropriately resourced and supported.

The Executive Board will be chaired by Ministers from DCMS, Home Office and the Department for Education, and will also include representatives from devolved administrations.

**Process and criteria for Executive Board membership**

The application process for Executive Board membership will open on 26 July 2018. Please fill in the application form in Annex A and return to the UKCIS Secretariat (**ukcis@culture.gov.uk)** by **13:00 on 3 September 2018**.

DCMS, Home Office and Department for Education Ministers are jointly responsible for deciding final board membership, based on evidence provided in application forms. We are particularly keen for organisations or individuals who can meet one or more of the following criteria to apply:

* Responsibility for internet safety. The Board will include those organisations with the greatest accountability, influence and responsibility for delivering a safer internet. This may include policy responsibility; operational responsibility (eg, for reporting and support of abuse); a recognised role in providing education and information; and providers of digital platforms and products who are responsible for creating a safe environment for users.
* Ability to represent impact of harms. The Board will include those organisations and individuals best able to represent evidence of the impact of online harms on society. This will those who are able to represent concerns relating to children and young people. It may also include representatives from academia; and from charities and organisations able to represent the needs of vulnerable groups who are often disproportionately targets of abuse.
* Ability to mobilise a response to harms. The Board will include those organisations and individuals best able to contribute to a practical, cross-cutting response to issues of online harm. This could be achieved through contributing their own areas of expertise and resource, or through their ability to mobilise a wider group of stakeholders.

The UKCIS Secretariat will notify all applicants individually of the outcome of their application by October 2018. A complete list of Board members will be published on the UKCIS website.

**If you have any questions about UKCIS membership, or would like to discuss the application process, please contact the DCMS UKCIS secretariat on ukcis@culture.gov.uk.**

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1. **Applicant Contact Details**

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| Organisation name |  |
| Website address |  |
| Name of potential UKCIS board member  *(include job title and email address)* |  |
| Contact details regarding this application *(if different to the above)* |  |

**2. Basic information about your organisation: its mission, staff, responsibilities and products.**

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**3. What contribution is your organisation currently making to internet safety, and what is your planned activity? Please give examples of specific projects.**

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**4. What contribution do you believe your organisation could make to the work of UKCIS?**

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Please complete this form electronically and send it to the UKCCIS Secretariat inbox (ukcis@culture.gov.uk) by 1pm 3 September 2018.