

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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July 14, 2026

The Rt. Hon. Lisa Nandy
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ
United Kingdom

Dear Secretary of State Nandy:

The Committee on the Judiciary is conducting oversight of how and to what extent foreign laws, regulations, and judicial orders compel, coerce, or influence companies to censor speech in the United States.¹ On June 23, 2026, the United Kingdom's Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) published a paper proposing reforms that would require social media companies and video sharing platforms to display news outlets that are either approved or explicitly operated by the U.K. government at the top of their feeds.² Many of DCMS's proposed reforms would serve as a major threat to online speech and expression and infringe on the rights of American companies and their users.³ We write to express our serious concerns with these proposed reforms and to request a briefing on DCMS's ongoing consideration and prospective implementation of any such reforms.

¹ See, e.g., STAFF OF THE H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY, 119TH CONG., THE FOREIGN CENSORSHIP THREAT: HOW THE EUROPEAN UNION'S DIGITAL SERVICES ACT COMPELS GLOBAL CENSORSHIP AND INFRINGES ON AMERICAN FREE SPEECH (Comm. Print July 25, 2025); Press Release, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, Chairman Jordan Subpoenas Big Tech for Information on Foreign Censorship of American Speech (Feb. 26, 2025); STAFF OF H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY, 119TH CONG., THE FOREIGN CENSORSHIP THREAT, PART II: EUROPE'S DECADE-LONG CAMPAIGN TO CENSOR THE GLOBAL INTERNET AND HOW IT HARMS AMERICAN SPEECH IN THE UNITED STATES (Comm. Print Feb. 3, 2026).

² Press Release, Dep't for Culture, Media and Sport, Plans for Prominence of Trusted News Sources on Social Media Alongside Measures to Reform Public Service Media in the UK (June 23, 2026); James Warrington, *Ministers may force newspapers to join state regulator*, THE TELEGRAPH (June 23, 2026).

³ *Id.*; Andrew Stuttaford, *Britain's Ever Deeper Descent into Censorship*, NATIONAL REVIEW (June 21, 2026); Eleanor Langford, *Social media giants could be forced to boost BBC content – four things to know*, THE IPAPER (June 22, 2026).

The DCMS claims that the rise of online journalism limits “the ability of trustworthy news providers to reach audiences and shape informed public debate.”⁴ The DCMS asserts that algorithms spread misinformation and disinformation online and that “[c]itizens cannot easily make free and informed choices without a media based on shared and accurate facts.”⁵ As a result, to “protect” the “media ecosystem,”⁶ DCMS is considering “options to require social media companies and video sharing platforms to make sure that news content from public service media (PSM), which includes the BBC, ITV, STV, Channel 4, S4C and 5, and other trustworthy providers, is prominent and easy to find on their platforms.”⁷

Several of DCMS’s proposals would hurt the free, competitive marketplace of ideas, and instead prioritize state-sanctioned media outlets with the goal of influencing the scope and direction of public discourse. These policies would create a tiered information system in which media outlets that are supported and legitimized by the British government are at the top, with all other outlets and independent journalists below them.⁸ The proposal would require social media platforms to ensure that PSMs are “prominent” and “easy to find”—a form of gatekeeping that stifles independent and smaller outlets.⁹ In addition, the DCMS’s requirements would impose costs on American social media platforms to implement a tiered information system and could require them to make significant changes to their global platform policies, which will affect American citizens.¹⁰

Even more concerning, DCMS cites the need to “tackle misinformation and disinformation” as a justification for its proposed reforms.¹¹ As the Committee has documented, European regulators have repeatedly used terms like disinformation and misinformation to exercise greater control over online expression and limit the distribution of politically disfavored speech.¹² As noted, the DCMS paper specifically references “times of social unrest or crisis” as key moments where it is important for the government to control the dissemination of specific

⁴ Department for Culture, Media and Sport, *Watch this Space: A New Strategic Direction for UK Media*, 2026, CP 1594 (UK).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.* See also Press Release, Dep’t for Culture, Media and Sport, Plans for Prominence of Trusted News Sources on Social Media Alongside Measures to Reform Public Service Media in the UK (June 23, 2026).

⁸ Department for Culture, Media and Sport, *Watch this Space: A New Strategic Direction for UK Media*, 2026, CP 1594 (UK).

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ The Committee has exposed the reality of localized content moderation having global impacts in its oversight of how and to what extent foreign laws, regulations, and judicial orders compel the censorship of American speech. See STAFF OF THE H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY, 119TH CONG., THE FOREIGN CENSORSHIP THREAT: HOW THE EUROPEAN UNION’S DIGITAL SERVICES ACT COMPELS GLOBAL CENSORSHIP AND INFRINGES ON AMERICAN FREE SPEECH (Comm. Print July 25, 2025); STAFF OF H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY, 119TH CONG., THE FOREIGN CENSORSHIP THREAT, PART II: EUROPE’S DECADE-LONG CAMPAIGN TO CENSOR THE GLOBAL INTERNET AND HOW IT HARMS AMERICAN SPEECH IN THE UNITED STATES (Comm. Print Feb. 3, 2026).

¹¹ Department for Culture, Media and Sport, *Watch this Space: A New Strategic Direction for UK Media*, 2026, CP 1594 (UK), <https://www.gov.uk>.

¹² STAFF OF H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY, 119TH CONG., THE FOREIGN CENSORSHIP THREAT, PART II: EUROPE’S DECADE-LONG CAMPAIGN TO CENSOR THE GLOBAL INTERNET AND HOW IT HARMS AMERICAN SPEECH IN THE UNITED STATES 94 (Comm. Print Feb. 3, 2026).

media outlets.¹³ Classifying particular viewpoints as misinformation or disinformation during these periods risks chilling forms of speech and expression that may be politically disfavored.¹⁴ The Committee's oversight has already documented several instances in which the U.K. has attempted to censor criticism of the government and debate over policy issues during periods of civil and social unrest.¹⁵

The Committee is committed to protecting online speech and expression and the rights of American companies and their users in the ever-evolving digital landscape. This includes protecting Americans from foreign laws that will have global implications for content that is prioritized online. Accordingly, we respectfully note our serious concerns with DCMS's proposed reforms and request a briefing to better understand DCMS's proposed reforms and their effect on American platforms and users. Please arrange for this briefing as soon as possible but no later than 10:00 a.m. ET on July 28, 2026.

Pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction to conduct oversight of matters concerning "civil liberties" to inform potential legislative reforms.¹⁶ If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Committee staff at + 1 (202) 225-6906.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

The Honorable Marco Rubio, Secretary of State

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ A prime example of this occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, in which true information was stifled by social media companies due to government pressure under the Biden-Harris Administration. *See e.g.* STAFF OF THE H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY AND THE SELECT SUBCOMM. ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FED. GOV'T OF THE H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY, 118TH CONG., THE CENSORSHIP-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX: HOW TOP BIDEN WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS COERCED BIG TECH TO CENSOR AMERICANS, TRUE INFORMATION, AND CRITICS OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION (Comm. Print May 1, 2024); Letter from Mr. Mark Zuckerberg, CEO, Meta, to Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (Aug. 26, 2024); Letter from Counsel for Alphabet, to Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (Sep. 23, 2025).

¹⁵ *See e.g.* Rep. Jim Jordan (@Jim_Jordan), X (Jul. 30, 2025, 1:30 AM), https://x.com/Jim_Jordan/status/1950368307372020086.

¹⁶ Rules of the House of Representatives, R. X (2025).