

7 December 2022

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Minister for Communications

Via email: minister.rowland@mo.communications.gov.au

Cc: Richard.Windeyer@communications.gov.au

Dear Minister

I would like to inform you of my upcoming overseas trip to Switzerland and Singapore between 13 and 24 January 2023.

During my trip I will be attending the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos- Klosters, Switzerland and meeting with Singapore Government representatives and APAC industry representatives in Singapore.

World Economic Forum Annual Meeting

I have been honored with an invitation to the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2023, which will take place in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland. Under the theme 'Cooperation in a Fragmented World', the 2023 Annual Meeting will bring together more than 2,500 leaders from government, business, and civil society, as countries grapple with emerging issues in the changing geopolitical landscape including evolving online harms.

This invitation builds on my attendance at the last annual meeting held earlier in 2022 and eSafety's membership of the WEF's Steering Committee for the XR Ecosystem Governance project, which is made up of CEOs and pivotal architects of the metaverse. I currently serve as the only government regulator on the Committee. I am also co-chairing a workstream for the Digital Content Safety Working Group, and we have been working with a range of multi-stakeholder players on developing a taxonomy of online harms, understanding common vectors for platform weaponization and important safety by design innovations and regulatory tools that can be applied to both current and future online harms.

The meeting will be an important and unique opportunity to advocate on the world stage the Australian Government's work in tackling online harms through eSafety's novel regulatory schemes and Safety by Design initiative through participation in panel discussions but also provides a rare opportunity to hold important bilateral meetings with senior government and industry leaders. It will also be an opportunity to showcase Australia's new systemic powers and world leading online safety regulation powers in relation to the Basic Online Safety Expectations and Industry Codes, particularly, how the Australian Government will use these world first powers to ensure global companies take a systemic approach to making their platforms safer for Australian citizens.

I hope that attendance at the event will also help to continue the momentum from the successful launch of the Global Online Safety Regulators Network with our online safety regulator counterparts from Fiji, United Kingdom, and Ireland in Washington DC in November 2022, and encourage other countries to join us as global online safety partners and sign up to the Network.

Singapore

Following the meeting in Switzerland I will visit Singapore for a number of meetings including with Singapore's Minister for Law, Mr K. Shanmugam, and representatives from the Ministry of Communications and Information, and fellow regulator, Infocom Media Development Authority. The focus of these meetings will be implementation of Singapore's new Online Safety Bill, which passed in November 2022, as well as insights from operationalizing Australia's *Online Safety Act 2021*, and shared challenges and opportunities. I also plan to meet with industry stakeholders based in Singapore including Twitter, Tik Tok, Meta and Apple.

Timing

I will be away from Australia on official business (inclusive of travelling time) from Friday 13 January 2023 to Tuesday 24 January 2023 and strongly believe that this engagement will further the national interest.

Acting Commissioner Arrangements

During my absence, I seek your approval for eSafety's Acting Chief Operating Officer, Mr Toby Dagg to act as Commissioner from Friday 13 January 2023 to Tuesday 24 January 2023 (inclusive). Mr Dagg has previously acted in the Commissioner role. I have attached his Curriculum vitae for your review.

Following my visit, I will provide a briefing to your office and the Department and will provide a cable through the DFAT network.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the work of my office. If you have any questions regarding this travel, please contact me.

Yours sincerely



Julie Inman Grant

eSafety Commissioner

Attachment A: Curriculum vitae of Mr Toby Dagg