

ANGELA RAYNER MP
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Our Ref: DM/AR

Dr Carolyn Wilkins
Oldham MBC
Level 3, Civic Centre
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21/1/2020

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter regarding a motion debated by Oldham Council earlier this month.

I certainly support the council's drive to develop legislation to improve internet safety for all and welcome any initiative that prevents harassment and abuse of those in public life.

Elected representatives at all levels face abuse and social media platforms have made it much easier for the abusers to connect with public figures.

Those in public life should be protected from abuse and social media platforms must do more to tackle this problem.

There are positives and negatives to the ease and simplicity in which members of the public can contact their councillors and MPs to share their views.

It can be a useful way of gauging constituents' opinions and collecting their thoughts on future plans.

That being said, it's one thing to disagree with an elected representative on an issue of policy or to let them know that you hold a different point of view to theirs, but to direct abuse at them online is a huge step beyond constructive criticism.

I wholeheartedly welcome your efforts to tackle this and you can be assured that you have my full support on this issue.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Rayner".

Angela Rayner MP