Professor Tanya Byron

Dear Tanya,

March 2010

‘DO WE HAVE SAFER CHILDREN IN A DIGITAL WORLD?’ – REVIEW OF PROGRESS SINCE THE BYRON REVIEW (2008)

Thank you for your report on the progress made on improving children’s digital safety since the publication of your review in 2008. I am grateful to you for the inclusive, consultative approach you have taken and for your thoughtful analysis and conclusions which are, as ever, balanced, insightful and informed throughout by the voices and interests of children, young people and families.

I welcome your report and the valuable contribution which it makes to the important debate on how best to help children enjoy the benefits of new technologies whilst managing the risks. I was pleased to read your conclusions about the significant progress we have made in raising public awareness of how to keep children safe online and teaching children how to stay safe through improved digital safety education. This year, as we move into what you describe as ‘phase two’ of the work of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS), I agree with you that our focus must be very clearly on delivery: doing what was set out in the UKCCIS Strategy and making a real, practical difference for children, young people and families.

As you have said time and again, success in keeping children safe when using new technologies must be a shared responsibility. I agree with you that UKCCIS represents a world leading coalition through which this can be achieved, and I agree with your recommendation that the UKCCIS Executive Board should decide on the best way to address your recommendations. The Home Secretary and I are therefore writing today to the Executive Board, asking them to consider your report and agree a response covering all of the recommendations by 31 July 2010.

Thank you again for your outstanding contribution to the child digital safety agenda and to our goal of making this country the best place in the world for children to
grow up. I am determined that in the years and months ahead the UK should continue to lead the world on this exciting and challenging agenda, and I look forward to further close collaboration with UKCCIS as it drives this important work.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Baroness Morgan of Drefelin and Alan Campbell MP.

Yours,

ED BALLS MP