

6<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Helen Millichap  
National Policy Lead for Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)  
National Police Chiefs Council  
50 Broadway  
London  
SW1H 0BL

Dear Helen,

**RE: PREVENTING HIGH-RISK OFFENDERS FROM USING ONLINE DATING AND SOCIAL DISCOVERY SERVICES:**

The Online Dating and Discovery Association (ODDA) is the recognised trade body for the sector with a mission to create safe, responsible and enjoyable experiences for everyone. Representing nearly 500 brands worldwide, a key priority for the ODDA and its members is to prevent the risk of harm from individuals who pose a threat to others, including those who have committed serious sexual or violent offences against women.

To achieve this, the sector has worked hard to implement a range of trust and safety measures that include better information sharing between platforms, human and AI content moderation as well as giving users more control over what information they share with others.

**But to tackle the problem effectively requires a more joined-up approach with key partners in the criminal justice system. The ODDA is therefore calling on the Police to apply specific bail conditions on individuals arrested for certain offences that prevent them from accessing online dating and social discovery apps.**

We know that many offenders arrested for serious offences continue to target victims while out on bail putting vulnerable users at greater risk. In our view, anyone who has been arrested for an offence involving violence, sex, stalking, harassment or romance fraud should be prohibited from accessing certain websites or apps, including those provided by our members.

We recognise that the decision to grant bail and impose certain conditions is based on a number of factors and that they must not be unnecessarily restrictive or unreasonable. However, we feel this approach is both proportionate and achievable within the law.

In addition to the above, we would like to raise awareness about a new tool we have developed on our website to report a convicted sex offender using publicly available information. The tool has been included in the latest update of the Licence Conditions Policy Framework published by

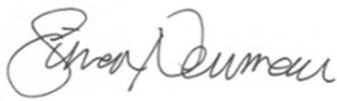
[www.theodda.org](http://www.theodda.org)

Email: [info@theodda.org](mailto:info@theodda.org)

the Ministry of Justice and can be found here: <https://theodda.org/for-consumers/report-a-convicted-sex-offender/>.

I look forward to hearing from you and exploring ways we can work together in reducing the risk of harm to users of online dating and social discovery services. We will also be writing separately to the Crown Prosecution Service and the Magistrates Association.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Newman  
Chief Executive Officer  
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