

State reply to alert of 3 February 2021: Journalist Nadine White Smeared by Minister for Equalities

The UK Government is committed to a free and independent press and does not intervene in what the press can and cannot publish. This is vital to a strong and fully functioning democracy where the powerful can be held to account without fear.

The Government agrees that the harassment of journalists and those working in the media is unacceptable and that is why the United Kingdom has established the National Committee for the Safety of Journalists. We published on 6 March 2021 a National Action Plan for the Safety of Journalists, which looks at measures to address the abuse experienced.

The Government notes that these tweets were not issued from an official government Twitter account, but instead from a personal Twitter account. The Minister is personally responsible for deciding how to act and conduct herself, and for justifying her own actions. As such, this is a matter on which the Minister would be best placed to offer a response.