



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release

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"Data Protection Commissioner's Fine Illustrates Tech Giants Need Specific Monitoring In Relation to Children and Young People" Says Leading Youth Organisation

Youth Work Ireland today said that the record fine for Instagram from the Data Protection Commissioner demonstrated that large tech companies, mostly based in Ireland, needed careful monitoring when it comes to the use of their platforms by children and young people. The Organisation whose members provide a network of youth information outlets for young people and hundreds of clubs and projects around the country believes the fine augers poorly for big tech companies commitment to the rights of children and young people particularly with significant EU regulation in the legislative pipeline.

"Big tech platforms are part of all our lives today and this is nowhere more true than for young people who are early adapters and heavy users of the best-known social media apps. The fine handed down by the Data Protection Commissioner in relation to Instagram raises a lot of alarm bells. It would be a fair assumption that personal data would be protected for all users of these platforms but most particularly the data of young people. Given the drive towards encouraging users to generate content the fact this was an issue is also of concern" said Michael Mc Loughlin of Youth Work Ireland

"Increasingly there are demands for greater regulation of these large tech companies particularly when it comes to privacy. Ireland has a huge responsibility in this field given the location of so many large companies here. There is legislation coming down the line from Brussels which will begin to monitor and oversee what these companies are doing. The EU Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act aim to create a safer digital space where the fundamental rights of users are protected and to establish a level playing field for businesses. The Digital Services Act will have a major impact on the rights of vulnerable users such as young people. Therefore, it is of even more concern that large platforms have been fined for such breaches at a time when they should be gearing up for greater regulation in this area." Mc Loughlin added

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Contact: Michael Mc Loughlin 087 6677499