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UK lawmakers invited to review TikTok's algorithm

During a committee hearing, the social media company agreed to follow through on its pledge made earlier this year to increase transparency

By Morgan Meaker

5 November 2020 • 6:55pm



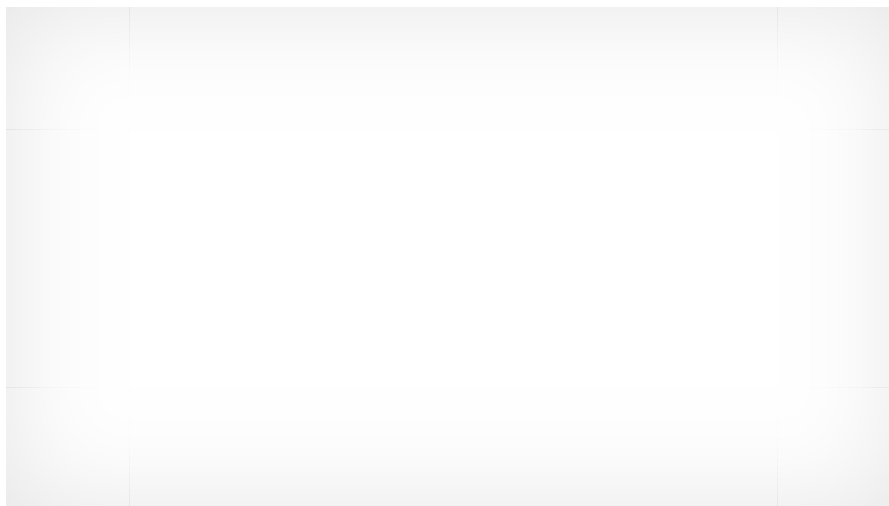
TikTok has invited British lawmakers to review the company's algorithm after a parliamentary committee probed whether the app censored content or shared data with the Chinese Communist Party.

Elizabeth Kanter, company's UK director of government relations and public policy, told members of the Business Select Committee they could visit its "transparency centre", see how it moderates content and review its algorithm.

The invitation followed a series of questions about whether [TikTok's](#) Chinese parent company [ByteDance](#) was responsible for censoring content that China doesn't like.

Kanter admitted the company had censored content in the [TikTok's](#) "early days". "At that time, we took a decision not to allow content on the platform... specifically in regard to the Uyghur situation" she said, referring to the Xinjiang region of China where human rights groups say more than one million ethnic Muslims have been held in so-called "re-education camps".

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She said TikTok's policies changed a year ago. "If you look at the platform now and search for the term 'Uyghur' on the TikTok app, you can find plenty of content about the Uighurs. There's plenty of content that's critical of China," she added.

She was also forced to dismiss allegations that its parent business ByteDance is behind surveillance equipment being used against Uighur Muslims.

She told MPs: "Because of the seriousness of the allegation, I've spoken to colleagues who run the Douyin app in China and I can

unequivocally deny the allegations against the company.

"ByteDance nor any of its subsidiaries produce, operate or disseminate any sort of surveillance equipment."

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