

Appendix: written parliamentary answers on cosmetics safety, children and online marketplaces, 2024 to 2026

14 written questions and answers, reproduced in full from the UK Parliament written questions API on 3 October 2026 (questions-statements.parliament.uk), newest first. A search of the same API for "retinol", "Sephora", "children's make-up" and "anti-ageing products" returned no questions at any date. Contains Parliamentary information licensed under the Open Parliament Licence v3.0.

22452: Hate Crime: Social Media. Asked by Shivani Raja (Conservative) on 2026-08-28; answered by Ian Murray, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, on 2026-09-28.

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment her Department has made of the potential implications for her policies of the findings of the Centre for Young Lives report on 'looksmaxxing'; and what steps she is taking to counter the progression of young men from body image forums into radicalised misogynistic networks.

This Government is committed to addressing the challenges young men face online and the development of radicalised misogynistic networks. The Online Safety Act requires platforms to take responsibility for the safety of their users by tackling illegal content and protect children from harmful content including misogynistic content. The Government has built on the OSA and gone further in announcing its intention to restrict social media companies from providing services to under-16s. The Government has also launched its 'You Won't Know Until You Ask' campaign to help parents and carers support children in developing critical thinking skills online and resilience to misleading, polarising or harmful content.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-08-28/22452>

22451: Body Dysmorphic Disorder: Social Media. Asked by Shivani Raja (Conservative) on 2026-08-28; answered by Alison McGovern, Department of Health and Social Care, on 2026-09-17.

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment she has made of health risks to minors from online 'looksmaxxing' trends promoting DIY cosmetic procedures and extreme dietary measures.

Following the national consultation, Growing up in the Online World, the Government is banning social media companies from offering their services to children aged under 16 years old. We will take the same approach as Australia. This will capture user-to-user platforms, whose purpose is to enable social interaction, including platforms like Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, and X. The ban will reduce children's exposure to all potentially harmful content which can be viewed via social media platforms, including online trends which promote harm to children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-08-28/22451>

25560: Toys and Games: Asbestos. Asked by James McMurdock (Independent) on 2026-08-28; answered by Kate Dearden, Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade, on 2026-09-08.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade, what assessment his Department has made of whether existing product safety legislation provides sufficient powers to prevent the sale of asbestos-contaminated toys.

Product safety legislation prohibits asbestos in toys, in any concentration. The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) is aware of this issue and has required businesses to recall asbestos-contaminated products. OPSS is working with local authorities and business groups to monitor product recalls and ensure the potential risks are understood. Advisory information has been published for businesses on carrying out effective testing, and supply chain assurance, to identify any further products requiring recall. The Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025 provides powers to update and strengthen the products safety framework and the Department recently consulted on proposed reforms.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-08-28/25560>

17305: Consumer Goods: Safety. Asked by Mark Pritchard (Conservative) on 2026-07-09; answered by Blair McDougall, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-07-16.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what plans she has to ensure the safety of products sold online.

UK product safety law is clear: all products must be safe, including those sold online. My Department's Office for Product Safety and Standards takes action to address non-compliant products online, including monitoring marketplaces, test purchasing and taking appropriate enforcement action. In addition, Government recently consulted on reforming the product safety framework to ensure it works for modern supply chains and addresses new risks. This included proposals for clear duties on online marketplaces to take proactive steps to identify, prevent and remove unsafe products from their sites. We are now considering feedback and will set out our response in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-07-09/17305>

17629: Plastics: Babies. Asked by Helen Maguire (Liberal Democrat) on 2026-07-09; answered by Blair McDougall, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-07-16.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of conducting a formal review of mandatory testing, clearer labelling and targeted restrictions on high-exposure plastic baby products.

The Government takes the safety of baby products seriously and has robust regulations requiring that all products placed on the UK market are safe, with specific controls addressing chemical exposure from plastic baby products. These requirements are kept under review. The Government's consultation on reforming the core Product Safety Framework closed on 23 June 2026. We are considering all feedback received including any evidence presented on the regulation of these products. The Government also launched a Call for Evidence on toy safety on 6 July, to ensure protections keep pace with emerging risks.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-07-09/17629>

125567: Toys and Games: Safety. Asked by Ruth Jones (Labour) on 2026-04-10; answered by Kate Dearden, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-04-20.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, whether he plans to consult on the potential merits of aligning the Toys (Safety) Regulations 2011 with EU Regulation 2025/2509 on the safety of toys.

The Government continues to closely monitor regulatory activity in the EU and assesses EU regulations on a case-by-case basis. It is right that the Government proceeds with policy changes in GB with due consultation and scrutiny. This is balanced with the Government's commitment to protecting the UK internal market and supporting UK exports to the EU by breaking down unnecessary barriers to trade. The Government plans to launch a Call for Evidence shortly, which will seek views on whether to implement similar requirements in GB to those of the new EU Toy Safety Regulation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-04-10/125567>

114578: Cosmetics. Asked by Adam Jogee (Labour) on 2026-02-20; answered by Kate Dearden, Department for Business and Trade, on 2026-03-02.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what steps he is taking to reduce the use of skin lightening products.

As product safety regulator, OPSS is responsible for ensuring that consumer products are safe. The UK Cosmetic Regulation requires that a safety assessment be completed by a qualified assessor to demonstrate the safety of a cosmetic product before it can be sold on our market. OPSS also provides funding to the Chartered Trading Standards Institute to highlight the dangers to consumers of using illegal cosmetics, including skin lighteners, through its "Cost Of Beauty" Campaign. The campaign includes social media, outreach with targeted groups and working with traditional media, with the aim of raising attention to the risks of these products.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-02-20/114578>

92241: Toys: Safety. Asked by Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) on 2025-11-18; answered by Kate Dearden, Department for Business and Trade, on 2025-11-26.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what recent steps he has taken to help ensure that unsafe children's toys are not sold on online marketplaces.

Under the Toys (Safety) Regulations 2011, all toys placed on the market must meet essential safety requirements. Despite this, we recognise that it remains too easy for non-compliant products to be made available to UK consumers on online marketplaces. The Office for Product Safety and Standards works to assess the prevalence of unsafe toys online and takes enforcement action where needed. Government has also introduced the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025, which allows us to introduce clearer requirements on online marketplaces to improve consumer safety and ensure fair competition. We will consult on proposals with stakeholders in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-11-18/92241>

HL10239: Cosmetics: Chemicals. Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green Party) on 2025-09-04; answered by Lord Leong, Department for Business and Trade, on 2025-09-19.

To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to ban the use of the chemical trimethylbenzoyl diphenylphosphine oxide in gel nail polish, following the decision of the EU to do so.

Trimethylbenzoyl diphenylphosphine oxide (TPO) was added to the GB Mandatory Classification List (GB MCL) under the GB Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation in February 2025. As per the requirements of Article 15 of the UK Cosmetic Regulation, Government is taking steps to prohibit the use of TPO in cosmetic products in Great Britain. Full details of the amendments to the Cosmetic Regulation, including any transitional provisions, will be prepared in due course. The first stage will be to ensure no new cosmetic products containing TPO are placed on the market from August 2026.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-09-04/HL10239>

72470: Chemicals: Safety. Asked by Jess Brown-Fuller (Liberal Democrat) on 2025-08-29; answered by Justin Madders, Department for Business and Trade, on 2025-09-04.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of safety regulations for the use of (a) limonene and (b) linalool in consumer products.

Limonene and linalool are used in various consumer products including cosmetics and household cleaners. The use of these chemicals in cosmetics is regulated by the UK Cosmetic Regulation and both chemicals are currently included in the list of restricted ingredients for use in cosmetics. Both chemicals are also found in household cleaners, which are regulated by the General Product Safety Regulation (GPSR). These regulations require that only safe products can be sold. The government is confident that the current restrictions are sufficient to ensure that products are safe. However, we keep our regulations under review to ensure that products remain safe.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-08-29/72470>

52882: Cosmetics: Health Hazards. Asked by Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) on 2025-05-16; answered by Justin Madders, Department for Business and Trade, on 2025-05-22.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of (a) implementing a defined standard for asbestos testing for cosmetics and (b) banning talc in (i) personal care and (ii) cosmetic products.

Regulation is clear that cosmetics must be safe. To demonstrate compliance, a safety assessment must be completed by a qualified safety assessor. Government intends to perform sector reviews of product regulation that will consider hazards that may impact consumer safety. To ensure that regulations reflects modern supply chains we recently introduced the Product Regulation and Metrology Bill enabling government to create a proportionate regulatory framework that will protect UK consumers from risk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-05-16/52882>

51617: Toys and Games: Safety. Asked by Alex Mayer (Labour) on 2025-05-12; answered by Justin Madders, Department for Business and Trade, on 2025-05-20.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of bringing forward legislative proposals to (a) improve toy safety and (b) protect children's health.

Government is committed to ensuring that only safe products can be sold. Under the Toys (Safety) Regulations 2011, all toys placed on the market must meet essential safety requirements. Following the Government Response to the Product Safety Review, government intends to perform sector reviews of product regulation and will also consider how cross-cutting hazards may impact consumer safety. Government recently introduced the Product Regulation and Metrology Bill. The Bill powers will allow us to reflect modern supply chains and create a proportionate regulatory framework to ensure UK consumers are protected from risk, regardless of product origin or where purchased.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-05-12/51617>

40436: Cosmetics: Health Hazards. Asked by Mark Pritchard (Conservative) on 2025-03-24; answered by Justin Madders, Department for Business and Trade, on 2025-03-31.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, if he will take steps to prevent the illegal (a) online sale and (b) importing of skin (i) whitening and (ii) lightening products which cause skin damage.

Cosmetics products must comply with some of the strongest safety standards in the world before they can be placed on the GB market. Government works with local enforcement authorities to take effective action when products are identified that do not meet these safety requirements, ensuring unsafe items are removed from sale. Government has introduced the Product Regulation and Metrology Bill, which explicitly recognises the role of online marketplaces to ensure consumers are protected from unsafe products. We intend to use the powers in the Bill to introduce requirements on e-commerce models to help prevent the sale of unsafe products online.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-03-24/40436>

7268: Cosmetics: Allergies. Asked by Dr Beccy Cooper (Labour) on 2024-10-04; answered by Justin Madders, Department for Business and Trade, on 2024-10-11.

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of encouraging cosmetic retailers to highlight allergens in the ingredient list.

The UK Cosmetics Regulation requires manufacturers to provide a full list of ingredients for cosmetics products. In addition, cosmetics that contain fragrance allergens, must identify the presence of these ingredients by referring to them as 'parfum' or 'aroma' to help people identify and avoid those products which they may be allergic to. Fragrance allergens are included as entries in Annex III to the Cosmetics Regulation and can only be used at the permitted thresholds and where required when accompanied by the relevant warnings.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/7268>