

JH/JOC

21 February 2025

Minister Peter Burke
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
34 Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

By e-mail: peter.burke@oireachtas.ie

Dear Minister Burke,

I would like to congratulate you on your election as a TD for the constituency of Longford/Westmeath and on your elevation to Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment. I look forward to engaging with you on all relevant matters to the Department in the coming years.

I would like to bring to your attention several issues which I am sure have been brought to your notice previously. The Financial Services Union (FSU) represents hundreds of Google employees and deep concern has been raised with the FSU by our members at recent decisions and announcements made by Google in relation to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programmes and the possible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for military purposes.

As you know the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programmes in Google were always heavily promoted by the company and its employees. It could be said that Google were the envy of many and were leaders in the provision and implementation of these important programmes. The recent announcement by Google to cancel several aspects of DEI is extremely concerning. As we understand it, this is not a wholesale abandonment of DEI values by Google, but it is a statement of a changing culture in the organisation.

Another issue is Google's decision to drop its commitment not to use or develop AI technology for military purposes. I am sure you share our concern at this announcement and recognise the consequences this decision could have on the militarisation of AI.

Google has legal obligations in Ireland to monitor, measure and report on certain DEI initiatives and has a moral obligation to its staff to ensure their work is not utilised in the advancement of AI for military purposes across the globe.

I appreciate Google is a private company who employ thousands of people in Ireland, but these issues are of such importance that an intervention from the relevant Minister seems appropriate at this juncture. Reminding Google management that the promotion of a culture of togetherness and inclusion is to be welcomed and expressing concern on behalf of the Irish Government about the possible militarisation of AI.

I am happy to meet at a time of your convenience to discuss these and any other relevant matters.

Kind Regards,



John O'Connell
General Secretary