



26 July 2023

Senator James Peterson, Chair  
Select Committee on Foreign Interference through Social Media  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Paterson and Select Committee Members,

WeChat International Pte. Ltd. ("WeChat International") welcomes the opportunity to share additional information with the Senate Select Committee on Foreign Interference through Social Media ("Committee"), and more specifically, to respond to its correspondence dated 17 July 2023 ("Committee Questions"). WeChat takes its compliance and legal obligations seriously. Except where noted, our responses pertain to WeChat and WeChat policies.

This submission supplements the information we provided in our previous submissions to the Committee on both 30 September 2020 (the "2020 Submission") and 17 February 2023 (the "2023 Submission"). WeChat operates as a global platform that facilitates communication between users, while complying with all applicable laws and regulations. Before we turn to the Committee Questions, we have provided additional details and context below which we trust will assist the Committee in its work.

**A. WeChat as a Communication Service.** WeChat is centred on person-to-person communication, which includes private messaging (one-to-one chats and group chats), video and audio calls, and the ability for WeChat users to share content with their circle of friends. WeChat is relied on by family members, friends, business colleagues and others to stay in touch.

Communications between WeChat users are, and can only be, initiated by users themselves, and such communication between users are private. As stated in WeChat's Privacy Policy and as previously addressed in the 2023 Submission, WeChat chat data is only stored on the device of the users (i.e. those receiving or sending chat data). The chat data only passes through our servers so that it can be securely distributed to the intended recipients and is not permanently retained during this process.

Unlike other social media or networking sites, WeChat's "Moments" service is limited in its scope and function, with sharing designed to be limited to a user's friend network. There is no recommendation algorithm, and users see their friends' Moments posts in a simple timeline based on when content was shared by the user to their own network.

**B. WeChat and Weixin Distinction.** WeChat is not Weixin; rather, they are separate but interoperable "sister services", meaning that while WeChat and Weixin users can interact with each other, each service has different server infrastructure, and each service is subject to different governing laws. Weixin is designed for users in the Chinese mainland, operated by a Chinese mainland entity and is governed by Chinese mainland law. WeChat is designed for users outside of the Chinese mainland, operated by WeChat International and is not governed by Chinese mainland law. This was a conscious decision designed to serve different users while ensuring compliance with applicable laws across different jurisdictions.

The distinction between WeChat and Weixin is important as the platforms have different user bases, host different content and features, and are subject to different laws and policies. As a more mature product, Weixin offers a wider range of content and features, which includes Weixin Mini-Programs and Weixin Official Accounts that users can subscribe to in order to, among other things, receive updates

about their favourite brands or services. WeChat does not offer similar Official Account or Mini-Program features, although users may choose to opt-in to such services, and if so, such content and features are operated from China as described above.

**C. Commitment to a Safe and Secure Digital Environment.** WeChat is committed to providing its users with a safe and secure platform for communication. WeChat's Acceptable Use Policy prohibits any form of misinformation, disinformation, intimidation, or harassment. Our practices here are similar to those of other platforms where universally undesirable content or behaviour is prohibited, such as those related to fraud, pornography, hate speech, violence, bullying and harassment. WeChat takes a strict view on such issues as we care about the safety and security of our users.

WeChat deploys technological protection measures to protect users and provide users with tools to report unacceptable activities which will then be reviewed, investigated, and enforced against upon discovery of any wrongdoing. As WeChat is centred around person-to-person text messages or chats, WeChat primarily relies on users flagging and reporting content to help maintain a safe and secure environment for our users.

The details of our content moderation policies are covered in WeChat's Acceptable Use Policy, which are published and publicly accessible on this [webpage](#). WeChat has also created Community Guidelines to further explain and help our users understand the types of content and behaviour we allow and prohibit on our platform, published and publicly accessible [here](#).

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We trust you will find these additional details, along with the information below, responsive to your queries. We will remain engaged with the Australian government on these important issues.

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### Responses to the Questions-on-Notice

	Question	Response
1.	Does Tencent Holdings Limited have any Chinese Communist Party members on its board or management? Please list the names and positions of any party officials.	Tencent Holdings Limited (“Tencent”), the ultimate parent company of WeChat International, is publicly listed in Hong Kong. WeChat International understands that Tencent does employ some people who identify as party members, which is common given that there are about 100 million party members in China. As with other countries, employees may choose their political affiliation and whether to keep that information private or to share it with their employer. Neither Tencent nor WeChat International hires or retains talent based on personal orientations and/or preferences of any employees (including political affiliations). In respect of Tencent employee rights and privacy considerations, we are not in a position to disclose personal information.
2.	Does WeChat have any Chinese Communist Party members on its board or management?	WeChat is operated by WeChat International, a Singapore-incorporated company whose employees are located in Singapore. WeChat does not ask any of our employees for their political affiliation.
3.	How many times have WeChat or Tencent representatives appeared in-person or virtually before a parliamentary or congressional committee’s public hearing in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, European Union, and Australia? Please list the dates and locations of any appearances.	WeChat has not appeared in-person or virtually before a parliamentary or congressional committee’s public hearing, but we have worked closely with, and provided written materials to, regulators in these and other markets.
4.	Your submission states that WeChat servers are all located outside of mainland China. Where exactly are WeChat’s servers located?	WeChat’s servers are located in Singapore and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
5.	Where are Weixin’s servers located? Please specify the countries.	Weixin is a Chinese mainland service for users in the Chinese mainland with servers also on the Chinese mainland.
6.	How many registered WeChat users are currently in Australia? Please specify the exact number of users.	As of July 2023, daily active users (DAU) in Australia are under 500,000. We had previously reported in our 2020 Submission that WeChat’s DAUs were approximately 690,000 at the time.
7.	How many registered Weixin users are currently in Australia? Please specify the exact number of users.	Weixin does not actively monitor the number of user logins by Weixin users in Australia, and the number would likely fluctuate based on things like the number of tourists in Australia at any given time. That said, based on internal estimates, it can be assumed that several hundred thousand Weixin registered users may be in Australia.
8.	If a Weixin user moves to and permanently resides in Australia, does that user continue on the Weixin platform or can they move across to the WeChat platform?	A user is a <i>WeChat</i> user if such user registers for an account with a <i>non-Chinese mainland mobile number</i> . A user is a <i>Weixin</i> user if such user registers for an account with a <i>Chinese mainland mobile number</i> .

		<p>If a Weixin user switches to an Australian mobile number, this user may link their Australian mobile number to their account within the app and will be prompted with an option to agree to WeChat's Terms of Service and Privacy Policy. This initiates the process of converting their account to a WeChat account. Beyond this example, it is important to note that an update to a person's domicile or residency status is not a data point that is collected.</p> <p>A Weixin registered account will remain a Weixin registered account until the user chooses to link their new non-Chinese mainland mobile number to their account.</p>
9.	Your submission states that Weixin is designed for users in the PRC, is operated by a PRC entity, and is governed by PRC law. Do you consider that Weixin users permanently in Australian are subject to PRC law?	<p>As is generally the case for all similar internet-based websites, apps or other electronic services, the product's terms of service dictate the governing law for the use of such service.</p> <p>In this case, a Weixin registered account would be subject to Weixin's Terms of Service which is governed by the laws of the Chinese mainland, in addition to the local laws of wherever the user resides (if outside of the Chinese mainland). A Weixin user can switch to WeChat should they decide to permanently live in Australia, in which case WeChat's terms, governed by Singaporean law, as well as applicable local law, apply.</p>
10	Where is WeChat's corporate headquarters located?	Singapore.
11	How many WeChat corporate offices are located outside China? Please specify which countries, if any, have WeChat offices	WeChat has one office, located in Singapore.
12	How many employees does WeChat have?	WeChat International employs approximately 150 people in Singapore, with approximately two dozen of whom are dedicated to WeChat operations. A variety of additional global professionals are employed by Tencent – including legal, marketing, product development, and related functions – in support of WeChat.
13	Does WeChat have any employees outside China?	Yes, WeChat International employees are based in Singapore.
14	Are any WeChat employees also members of the Chinese Communist Party? Please specify the number of CCP members employed by WeChat.	WeChat is operated by WeChat International, a Singapore-incorporated company whose employees are located in Singapore. WeChat does not ask any of our employees for their political affiliation.
15	Are any WeChat employees also holding dual roles with Chinese state media organisations, including but not limited to, Xinhua News Agency, the People's Daily, and China Global Television?	To the best of our knowledge, no.
16	Do Chinese Government entities or Chinese Communist Party	No. WeChat's Terms of Service are governed by Singapore laws and chats are, and remain, private.

	officials monitor, moderate or censor any content on WeChat within and/or outside China?	
17	Does the Chinese Government or Party officials conduct surveillance activities via the WeChat app on its own citizens?	No. WeChat is a safe and secure platform, operated under Singapore laws, that enables private chat messages between users. Surveillance by any government would violate our stated policies.
18	<p>On 7 May 2020, a Citizen Lab investigation reported that WeChat surveils non-China registered accounts and uses messages from those accounts to train censorship algorithms to be used against China-registered accounts. Their research showed that files and images shared by WeChat users with accounts outside of China are subject to political surveillance and this content is used to train and build up the censorship system that WeChat uses to censor China registered users.</p> <p>a. Are these reports accurate?</p> <p>b. If so, does this surveillance extend to chat messages, files and images sent or received by Australian users of WeChat?</p> <p>c. If yes, is this data stored by WeChat servers in mainland China? Who has access to that data?</p> <p>d. Do Chinese Government or Party officials use this information for the purposes of targeting the families of Chinese-Australian diaspora who are political critics of the Chinese Government?</p>	<p>We do not know how Citizen Lab arrived at its results, but our policies and practices do not permit the type of conduct alleged in the report. As we publicly noted at the time and confirm again here, all chat content shared among WeChat users is private.</p> <p>WeChat holds itself to the highest standards, and WeChat's policies and procedures comply with all applicable laws and regulations in each country in which we operate. User privacy and data security are core values at WeChat.</p>
19	Citizen Lab reported that China-registered accounts are under terms of service in the jurisdiction of China (Shenzhen) and are subject to censorship, while censorship persists for China-registered accounts even if the account is later associated with a phone number outside of China. Are these findings accurate and if so, does censorship apply to China-registered accounts that are then later associated with an Australian phone number?	As noted above, we do not know how Citizen Lab arrived at its results, but Weixin users may choose to switch to WeChat by linking a non-Chinese mainland mobile number within the app settings.
20	Who is responsible for WeChat's content moderation policy?	WeChat's Operations team is responsible for implementing its content moderation policies.

21	Please provide a copy of WeChat's content moderation policy.	<p>WeChat's Acceptable Use Policy clearly outlines to the user what we prohibit or find unacceptable in relation to the use of WeChat, and what we will do in response: <a href="https://www.wechat.com/en/acceptable_use_policy.html">https://www.wechat.com/en/acceptable_use_policy.html</a></p> <p>The Committee may also refer to the WeChat Community Guidelines which further explains the types of content and behaviour that are or are not allowed on WeChat: <a href="https://safety.wechat.com/en_US/community-guidelines">https://safety.wechat.com/en_US/community-guidelines</a></p> <p>Both documents are publicly available via the links shared above.</p>
22	Does WeChat censor content on its app that can be described as criticism of the Chinese Government?	<p>WeChat is committed to complying with all applicable laws and regulations in which it operates to ensure a safe, transparent and diverse online environment for its users.</p>
23	Does WeChat censor content that raises awareness of the documented human rights violations against the Uyghur Muslim population in Xinjiang at the hands of the Chinese Government?	<p>WeChat's policies do not prohibit the type of content described in these questions so long as such user content and behaviour (as is the case with all other content on our platform) is compliant with our Acceptable Use Policy. In line with its industry peers, WeChat will only engage in narrow and selective content moderation to prohibit universally undesirable content such as fraud, nudity, hate speech, spam, violence, threats against the safety of minors, terrorism and other criminal behaviour. Beyond the categories of harmful and unlawful content set forth in these written policies, WeChat does not moderate or restrict content.</p>
24	Does WeChat censor content posted by pro-democracy Hong Kong activists?	
25	Does WeChat censor content that relates to the Tiananmen Square student protests and massacre that occurred in 1989?	
26	If an Australian WeChat user publicly posted material relating to Xinjiang, pro-democracy Hong Kong activists, or the Tiananmen Square incident, is it WeChat's policy to remove those accounts from your platform?	
27	What is WeChat's policy on freedom of expression?	<p>WeChat is committed to providing users with a widely used platform which facilitates discourse and exchange of ideas between users as long as WeChat's policies are adhered to in compliance with applicable laws. This ensures that the user experience is safe and secure for everyone.</p>
28	Are Australian users permitted to express their views freely on your platform, including on political matters that may be sensitive to the Chinese Communist Party?	<p>WeChat's policies do not prohibit such content so long as such user content and behaviour (as is the case with all other content on our platform) is compliant with our Acceptable Use Policy. In line with its industry peers, WeChat will only engage in narrow and selective content moderation to prohibit universally undesirable content such as fraud, nudity, hate speech, spam, violence, threats against the safety of minors, terrorism and other criminal behaviour. Beyond the categories of harmful and unlawful content set forth in these written policies, WeChat does not moderate or restrict content.</p>

29	<p>Has WeChat ever cooperated with requests from China's national intelligence services, in accordance with the National Intelligence Law of 2017 or other Chinese government authorities for information relating to Australian users of the WeChat platform?</p> <p>a. If yes, please list the number of requests made in relation to Australian users, in a detailed breakdown year-by-year, in the past 5 years.</p>	<p>WeChat has not received any such requests.</p>
30	<p>Your submission states that the personal information of Australian WeChat users' data is stored in Singapore. For the avoidance of doubt, do employees of WeChat or Tencent have access to this data?</p> <p>a. If yes, on how many occasions has Australians' data in Singapore been accessed by WeChat or Tencent?</p>	<p>As part of WeChat's regular operations to provide a stable, secure and seamless service to its users, the WeChat team in Singapore may access certain categories of user data in accordance with WeChat's Privacy Policy. WeChat has a limited number of employees that have access to data for limited but necessary purposes, including to administer WeChat and for troubleshooting, safety or user support.</p> <p>Due to the interoperable nature of WeChat and Weixin, when you chat with a Weixin user or access Weixin services, some data will naturally be transmitted into and processed in China. As disclosed in the WeChat Privacy Policy, WeChat has strict protocols in place regarding the access of data, including access policies that restrict unauthorised access to our systems. No access to WeChat users' data is permitted unless access of such data is absolutely necessary by approved personnel for limited and legitimate purposes.</p> <p>WeChat's Privacy Policy can be accessed here: <a href="https://www.wechat.com/en/privacy_policy.html">https://www.wechat.com/en/privacy_policy.html</a></p>
31	<p>Dr Seth Kaplan, a professorial lecturer at John Hopkins University who lived in China for seven years, in his testimony to this Select Committee said that "narratives are managed, information is managed and dissenting views are demoted or eliminated" and that WeChat is "basically a narrative machine for the [Chinese Communist Party]".</p> <p>a. Do you agree with Dr Kaplan's characterisation of WeChat</p> <p>b. If you disagree, please explain why.</p>	<p>WeChat disagrees with Dr. Kaplan's testimony. These accusations were responded to by Tencent publicly earlier this year in the Wall Street Journal, which can be found <a href="#">here</a> [link].</p>
32	<p>What is WeChat's policy for the accounts of prominent elected</p>	<p>As per WeChat's Privacy Policy, WeChat only requires a mobile number, an alias, and (in certain regions) an email address when a user registers for a WeChat account.</p>

	<p>officials outside of China, including heads of government?</p> <p>a. What was the policy in 2019?</p> <p>b. Has this policy changed since 2019? If so, why?</p>	<p>WeChat does not collect information on the user's job details or political affiliation.</p> <p>In order to ensure content and behaviour on WeChat remains authentic and to eliminate false news, disinformation and misinformation, etc., WeChat's Acceptable Use Policy expressly states that where a WeChat account is being used in an official capacity on behalf of governmental entities, full disclosure is required. There has been no change to this policy since WeChat's Acceptable Use Policy came into effect.</p>
33	<p>Has WeChat ever interfered with an Australian member of parliament's WeChat account?</p>	<p>No. As WeChat does not collect information on the user's job details or political affiliation, account suspensions or closures, if any, would only be based on a violation of applicable terms of service. For purposes of clarity, however, we are not aware of any such instances involving any elected member of a federal, state or territory parliament in Australia.</p>
34	<p>Has WeChat removed the accounts of any elected member of a federal, state or territory parliament in Australia? Please list any instances in which such accounts have been removed and the reasons why.</p>	
35	<p>Has WeChat taken any adverse action, such as a suspension or warning, against the accounts of any elected member of a federal, state or territory parliament in Australia? Please list any instances in which such adverse action was taken and the reasons why.</p>	
36	<p>Why did WeChat pull down then Prime Minister Scott Morrison's WeChat account in January 2022, just a few months before the Australian federal election in May 2022?</p> <p>a. It was reported that Mr Morrison's WeChat account was transferred to Fuzhou 985 Information Technology Co Ltd, and it had rebranded the account as the 'Australian Chinese New Life'. Who in WeChat authorised this transfer?</p> <p>b. Why did WeChat fail to communicate to Mr Morrison about this transfer?</p> <p>c. Why did WeChat ignore the requests of Australian Government representatives seeking to restore Mr Morrison's WeChat?</p>	<p>Respectfully, WeChat neither failed to communicate nor ignored any requests from Australian Government representatives in this matter.</p> <p>There was no evidence of any hacking or third-party intrusion, but rather the incident in question centred on a dispute over account ownership of a Weixin Official Account, not WeChat.</p> <p>As this matter relates to the former Prime Minister, we will respectfully refrain from providing further details and will defer to the former Prime Minister to explain the circumstances and issues around the registration and management of his account.</p> <p>Some additional public reporting can be found here: <a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-01-30/scott-morrison-lost-control-wechat-account-china-relations/100787054">https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-01-30/scott-morrison-lost-control-wechat-account-china-relations/100787054</a></p>



	<p>d. Has WeChat since sought to restore this account to Mr Morrison? If not, why not?</p> <p>e. Was this an intervention into Australia's domestic political affairs?</p>	
37	<p>Your submission states that WeChat's Acceptable Use Policy specifically and expressly prohibits inauthentic content and behaviour, including to remove false news, disinformation and misinformation where behaviours against that policy are identified.</p> <p>a. What is WeChat's process for identifying misinformation and disinformation as it relates to Australian's electoral or political affairs?</p> <p>b. What is WeChat's working definitions of what constitutes misinformation and disinformation?</p> <p>c. Does WeChat partner with reputable and independent, third-party fact checking organisations to counter misinformation and disinformation on your platform?</p> <p>d. How many times has WeChat removed misinformation and disinformation relating to Australia's electoral events, such as the 2022 federal election or during the debate in the upcoming referendum on the Voice?</p>	<p>WeChat is primarily centred on private person-to-person text messages or "chats," which is different in nature than more public facing social media platforms. Due to the unique nature of this messaging platform, WeChat primarily relies on user reports and local governmental notifications in identifying objectionable content, including misinformation and disinformation. Upon receiving a user report and/or governmental notification, the WeChat team will promptly investigate the matter and take appropriate action.</p> <p>WeChat reviews all reports and notifications to verify or refute the relevant misinformation and disinformation claim.</p> <p>As disclosed in our 2023 Submission, WeChat cooperated with a request from the AEC during the 2022 Federal Election to address user non-compliance with applicable laws and WeChat's policies.</p>
38	<p>Does WeChat actively cooperate with the Australian Electoral Commission to promote trusted information relating to Australia's electoral processes, and to counter misinformation or disinformation that may be spread on your platform relating to Australia's electoral processes?</p>	<p>WeChat has worked, and remains in communication, with the Australian Electoral Commission to help support the electoral process in Australia, including through regular check-in briefings and the establishment of "rapid response" channels to facilitate a timely response should an actionable form of misinformation or disinformation arise on the platform. For further information, please see our 2023 Submission.</p> <p>As WeChat is centred around person-to-person text messages or chats, WeChat does not "promote" any information nor utilizes any recommendation algorithm.</p>
39	<p>Does WeChat support Australian-based civil society organisations to maintain an online presence on your platform to promote trusted information relating to Australia's electoral and political processes?</p>	<p>As noted above, WeChat is centred around person-to-person text messages or chats. In this context, WeChat does not "promote" any information or organization.</p>

40	Does WeChat cooperate with Australian government authorities in relation to foreign interference or espionage offences that may be conducted via your platform?	WeChat takes its compliance and legal obligations seriously in all markets in which it operates and cooperates with government authorities on any complaint or request that may arise in accordance with applicable law and our policies.
41	Your 2020 submission states you responded to correspondence from the Australian Government's Attorney-General's Department to offer to meet in person to discuss Australia's Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme. Please provide a copy of this correspondence.	If the Committee requires copies of such correspondence, WeChat considers that the appropriate course of action would be to issue a request to the Attorney-General's Department.
42	Please specify the dates of any meetings held since that correspondence between WeChat and the Australian Government's Attorney-General's Departments and specify the attendees representing WeChat or Tencent.	
43	<p>The committee has heard compelling evidence of disturbing allegations of transnational repression conducted over social media in Australia which threatens the freedom of expression of Australians. Transnational [re]pression is when governments reach across national borders to silence dissent among their diaspora and exile communities, and may take the form of online trolling, stalking or harassment and is typically conducted by authoritarian states to coerce their citizens and others abroad.</p> <p>a. Does 'transnational repression' violate WeChat's Acceptable Use policy or any other policy?</p> <p>b. Has WeChat facilitated transnational repression your platform to target, harass and intimidate Australian activists who are critical of the Chinese Government's human rights record?</p> <p>c. ASPI has submitted to this committee that their research has found the Chinese Communist Party is targeting women of Asian descent and subjecting them to high levels of personal abuse to stifle their views and discredit their work. Can you confirm whether</p>	Such activity contravenes WeChat's Acceptable Use Policy. A WeChat user who has experienced any form of harassment or bullying from any person or government is encouraged to lodge a user report within the app, and the WeChat team will promptly investigate the matter and take appropriate enforcement action.

	this has ever occurred on WeChat and if so, what has WeChat done to stop this activity?	
44	Does WeChat or Tencent have an official position on the governance of The Republic of China (Taiwan)?	WeChat is unclear of the relevance of this question.
45	Has WeChat or Tencent ever moderated, removed, or censored any news, content, or comment by an Australian WeChat user relating to The Republic of China (Taiwan), or to The People's Republic of China and Taiwan?	WeChat's policies do not prohibit such content so long as such user content and behaviour (as is the case with all other content on our platform) is compliant with our Acceptable Use Policy. In line with its industry peers, WeChat will only engage in narrow and selective content moderation to prohibit universally undesirable content such as fraud, nudity, hate speech, spam, violence, threats against the safety of minors, terrorism and other criminal behaviour. Beyond the categories of harmful and unlawful content set forth in these written policies, WeChat does not moderate or restrict content.
46	What is WeChat's policy relating to acts of bullying, aggression, or intimidation by individual users in Australia? a. State WeChat's policy relating to user conduct, as accessible by users.	WeChat's Acceptable Use Policy specifically prohibits any content or behaviour relating to, depicting, promoting or encouraging participation in, or soliciting, bullying and harassment (see paragraph 3(d) - <a href="https://www.wechat.com/en/acceptable_use_policy.html">https://www.wechat.com/en/acceptable_use_policy.html</a> ).  Further elaboration on examples of bullying or harassment are set out in WeChat's Community Guidelines under the section " <i>Hateful, Spam or Other Inappropriate Behaviour</i> " - <a href="https://safety.wechat.com/en_US/community-guidelines/cover/hateful-spam-or-other-inappropriate-behaviour">https://safety.wechat.com/en_US/community-guidelines/cover/hateful-spam-or-other-inappropriate-behaviour</a>
47	Has WeChat or Tencent ever moderated, removed, or censored any news, content, or comment in Australia relating to LGBT issues?	WeChat's policies do not prohibit such content so long as such user content and behaviour (as is the case with all other content on our platform) is compliant with our Acceptable Use Policy. In line with its industry peers, WeChat will only engage in narrow and selective content moderation to prohibit universally undesirable content such as fraud, nudity, hate speech, spam, violence, threats against the safety of minors, terrorism and other criminal behaviour. Beyond the categories of harmful and unlawful content set forth in these written policies, WeChat does not moderate or restrict content.
48	Has WeChat or Tencent ever moderated, removed, or censored any news, content, or comment in Australia relating to the proposed Voice to Parliament referendum in Australia?	WeChat is not aware of any past interference with content relating to the proposed Voice to Parliament referendum in Australia. If there is any actionable content in violation of WeChat's terms, WeChat would promptly handle in accordance with the terms of service.
49	Has WeChat ever been asked to moderate or correct misinformation or disinformation relating to Australia's electoral processes posted on your platform by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)? Please specify when this has	WeChat has worked, and remains in communication, with the Australian Electoral Commission to help support the electoral process in Australia, including through regular check-in briefings and the establishment of "rapid response" channels to facilitate a timely response should an actionable form of misinformation or disinformation arise on the platform.

	<p>occurred during the 2022 Australian federal election.</p>	<p>During the 2022 Federal Election, WeChat promptly investigated matters raised by the AEC to address user non-compliance with applicable laws and WeChat's policies. WeChat will continue to use its best efforts to provide assistance to the AEC. For further information, please see our 2023 Submission.</p>
50	<p>How would WeChat approach and action any such request from the AEC?</p>	<p>WeChat is committed to working with all relevant Australian regulators and authorities, including the AEC, in respect of any complaint or request that may arise in accordance with applicable law and our policies.</p>
51	<p>In a meeting with Australian government officials in China on 10 May 2019 was the establishment of a WeChat account for the then Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison discussed? If so:</p> <p>a. Were assurances sought that the account would not be interfered with if it was established?</p> <p>b. Were those assurances given by WeChat or Tencent?</p> <p>c. If so, why were those assurances broken when the Prime Minister's account was first censored and then had its access to the account revoked when the ownership of the account was transferred in the lead up to the May 2022 federal election?</p> <p>d. Doesn't this constitute 'textbook foreign interference' as testified to the committee by Fergus Ryan from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute?</p>	<p>Please refer to our response to question 36.</p>
52	<p>Has the Albanese Government consulted with Tencent or WeChat about its proposed Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023?</p>	<p>No, but WeChat is willing to engage in discussions with relevant authorities as appropriate.</p>
53	<p>Does WeChat support the Australian Government's Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023?</p>	<p>WeChat is committed to supporting a safe and secure digital environment. We have not taken a position on this proposed legislation at this time. WeChat will comply with all applicable laws and regulations in each country in which we operate, including Australian laws and regulations that are applicable to WeChat.</p>