

Karen Bradley should keep her promise and make sure the tech giants do the right thing – Watson

Tom

Watson, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport,

commenting on accusations the Conservatives have rolled back on manifesto commitments on internet safety, said:

"The

Culture Secretary seems to have bowed to pressure from the social media giants

before her strategy had even been published.

"The

Tories made a clear and unambiguous promise in their manifesto to bring forward

legislation to compel social media providers and other internet firms to pay a

levy – but it's now been watered down to a voluntary levy. We know from the gambling industry that a voluntary system allows companies to ignore their responsibilities and to underpay. Karen Bradley should keep her promise and make sure the tech giants do the right thing.

"They

have had nearly a decade to deal with these issues and failed. I find it hard to believe a voluntary code will change much. They may evade appropriate regulation from the Tories but they should know that a future Labour government

will not succumb to their lobbying power."