



TIK TOK AND INSTAGRAM Online Telegraph 16 January 2023 by Harriet Barber

Teens as young as 13 being fed nonsense health advice and links to porn and can access explicit self harm content the telegraph has established

The finding come ahead of the vote on the online safety bill this week.,

Sunday telegraph reporters created 8 Tik Tok and Instagram accounts posing as 13 and 15 yr olds and found all fake accounts were fed inappropriate content and misleading health advice.

Tik Tok algorithms promote a menu of violence and crimes to one of the boys. Instagram was marked out for the speed with which the accounts were followed by erotic models offering “ private shows”

Campaigner Baroness Kidron said “the investigation showed social media [platforms are wilfully disregarding harm to children. These platforms have fuelled anxiety and depression among a staggering number of young people, and in some cases cost them their lives”

The idea some users were somehow “ dirty” or unhygienic was a common theme as was the notion teens carried “ inflammation” needing to be managed

One Instagram post fed the 15 yr old girls account promoting a drink to “ detoxify the colon and remove excess waste from the intestines .There was also a “ juice for vagina health “ .Another encouraged the treatment of thrush by rinsing with vinegar.

Prof David Strain chairman of the BMA said that such content “ is utter nonsense” but the “ real concern is the mental impact”

Tik Tok videos posted purported to diagnose serious medical conditions such as hypothyroidism and autism

The fake accounts were also bombarded with before and after body comparison and work out regimes and diet tips “ the anti-cancer diet”

Scenes of crime, accidents, and violence on the 13 yr old boys Tik Tok were prolific including murder investigations and knife attacks. All teenage boys accounts were targeted with “ testosterone – boosting “ supplements

In the final stage of the investigation The Telegraph actively sought out extreme content including self harm from the accounts search function