Elon Musk asked to testify on Twitter by UK Parliament

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The Twitter application is seen on a digital device, Monday, April 25, 2022, in San Diego. Elon Musk reached an agreement to buy Twitter for roughly $44 billion on Monday, promising a more lenient touch to policing content on the platform where he promotes his interests, attacks critics and opines on social and economic issues to more than 83 million followers. Credit: AP Photo/Gregory Bull

A British parliamentary committee scrutinizing draft online safety legislation has invited Elon Musk to discuss his plans to [buy Twitter](#) and the [changes he's proposing](#) for the social media platform.

Parliament's digital committee asked the Tesla CEO on Wednesday to give evidence about his proposals "in more depth."

Musk said it's too early to give an answer.

"I am honored and thank the Parliament for their invitation, but it would be premature at this time to accept, given that there has not yet been a shareholder vote" to approve the deal, he said in an email to The Associated Press.

The committee said it's interested in Musk's plans, especially his intention to roll out verification for all users, which echoes its own recommendations to the U.K. government.

Musk has said he wants Twitter to " [authenticate all humans](#)," an ambiguous proposal that could be related to his desire to rid the website of automated spam accounts.

The U.K. government's [online safety bill](#), which is being examined by lawmakers in Parliament, would give regulators wide-ranging powers to crack down on digital and social media companies.

Among the bill's measures aimed at combating online abuse is a requirement for the biggest platforms to give users the option to verify their identity and the choice not to interact with unverified users.

"At a time when social media companies face the prospect of tighter regulations around the world, we're keen to learn more about how Mr. Musk will balance his clear commitment to free speech with new

obligations to protect Twitter's users from online harms," committee chair Julian Knight said.

It's not the first time the committee has invited a tech boss to testify. In 2018, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg declined an invitation to answer questions as part of its investigation into fake news.

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