



## Internet Watch Foundation Newsletter

### Welcome to issue 6 of the 2009 IWF e-newsletter series...

IWF was represented at a number of conferences and meetings during June, including a European Financial Coalition meeting, a UKCCIS Executive Board meeting and UKCCIS working group meetings on Industry and Public Awareness.

Our Head of Secretariat, Brian Wegg, retires from the IWF at the end of this month following ten years of service. Brian joined the IWF in 1999 as an Internet Content Analyst in the Hotline team and went on to take responsibility for stewarding the governance and policy work of the organisation. Brian will be missed by his colleagues and associates and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his outstanding efforts and commitment during his time at the IWF.

Features in this newsletter include **IWF News**, **IWF Status**, **Reports**, **Stakeholder News**, **Events**, **News from the UK and Around the World** and **IWF Literature**.

We welcome your comments on the newsletter, what you like about it, what you hope to see included and what you feel can be improved. Please email [newsletter@iwf.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@iwf.org.uk) with your thoughts and ideas.

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### IWF News

#### [IWF Response to apComms Inquiry on Internet Traffic](#)

The IWF submitted its response to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Communications Inquiry on Internet Traffic on 22 May 2009 and was subsequently invited to an oral evidence session. Our response focused on question four of the inquiry: "Is the current global approach to dealing with child sexual abuse images working effectively? If not, then how should it be improved?"

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### IWF Status

"The UK has one of the most effective approaches in the world for protecting children on the internet. As part of this approach, the Internet Watch Foundation has been responsible for tackling child sexual abuse images on the internet. Their work, in partnership with the online sector, Government, police and charities is helping to eradicate such content from UK networks."

**Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown MP, Prime Minister**

The IWF is an independent, self-regulatory organisation. We were established in 1996 by the UK internet industry to provide a national 'Hotline' for the public and IT professionals to report potentially illegal online content within our remit and to be the 'notice and take-down' body for this content. Our [Code of Practice](#) details our role in these take-down procedures. Once

informed, the host or internet service provider is duty bound under the [E-Commerce Regulations](#) (Liability of intermediary service providers) to remove or disable access to the potentially illegal content, expeditiously. IWF status as a relevant authority as regards reporting, handling and combating child sexual abuse images on the internet has been recognised in a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) linked to Section 46 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Reports are assessed according to UK law; a process reinforced by reciprocal police training, with each image being categorised in line with criteria set out by the UK Sentencing Guidelines Council. Our staff may be called to provide evidence in prosecutions relevant to IWF expertise.

We are referenced as a national and international model of self-regulation and are committed to sharing good practice with relevant agencies, authorities and governments around the world. Our Chief Executive is a member of the Executive Board of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety. To find out more about the IWF and the status of our organisation, please click [here](#).

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## Reports

### Digital Britain Report

The Government published the final Digital Britain Report on 16 June. This report is the Government's strategic vision for ensuring that the UK is at the leading edge of the global digital economy.



The report provides actions and recommendations to promote and protect talent and innovation in the UK's creative industries, to modernise TV and radio frameworks and support local news, and introduces policies to maximise the social and economic benefits from digital technologies.

The Report is one of the central policy commitments in the Government's Building Britain's Future plan and draft legislative programme.

Some of the Digital Britain measures include:

- Universal access to broadband by 2012
- A fund for investment in the next generation of superfast broadband
- Accelerating current and next generation mobile coverage and services
- Three year National Plan to improve Digital Participation

Click [here](#) to view the final report and the executive summary.

### CHIS Digital Manifesto

The Children's Charities Coalition on Internet Safety (CHIS) published a Digital Manifesto in June. The Manifesto features 42 recommendations to the UK Government, industry and others to provide better protection to children online.



The recommendations focus on:

- Child sexual abuse images
- Research and information needs
- Policing priorities
- Access to age-restricted goods and services and data

- protection
- Addressing future challenges of the mobile internet
- Advertising to children
- Internet safety software
- Support for professionals
- Treatment provision
- Social networking websites
- Removing legal barriers
- Future progress and policy development on internet safety

Click here to read the Digital Manifesto: <http://chisuk.blogspot.com/2009/06/press-release-launch-of-digital.html>

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## Stakeholder News

### **Nominet Trust**

Nominet Trust is a charity that provides funds for innovative projects which strive to improve and encourage the development of a safe, educational and inclusive internet.

The logo for Nominet Trust, featuring the words "nominet" and "trust" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. "nominet" is in a dark purple color, and "trust" is in a lighter purple color.

The Trust will provide grants to organisations that can demonstrate vision and execution for internet-related projects that make a tangible difference in developing a safe, educational and inclusive internet in the UK and other countries.

For more information about the trust and how to apply for a grant visit:  
<http://www.nominettrust.org.uk/index.php>

### **Mobile Broadband Group Updates Content Code of Practice**

The UK's mobile operators have updated 'The UK Code of Practice for the self-regulation of new forms of content on mobile', following a formal review.



The review took account of inputs from the Byron Review, an independent review by Ofcom in 2008, an assessment conducted by PWC in 2009 of the UK Code's compliance with the European Framework for Safer Mobile Use by Children and Young Teenagers and a public consultation conducted on behalf of the mobile operators by the Mobile Broadband Group. It also took account of the direct experience that operators have had since the Code came into force five years ago.

The Code's main features, designed to protect young children from being exposed to inappropriate content on mobile handsets, require that commercial content that depict explicit sexual images which would be otherwise categorised as 'R18' content is placed behind access controls and that mobile operators offer filtering for internet browsing from handsets.

For more information visit:  
[http://www.mobilebroadbandgroup.com/documents/mbg\\_content\\_code\\_rev\\_pr100609.pdf](http://www.mobilebroadbandgroup.com/documents/mbg_content_code_rev_pr100609.pdf)

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## Events

### **Public hearing on 'The impact of social networking sites'**

14 September 2009, 10:00-13:00, Brussels

The Transport, Energy and Information Society (TEN) Section of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is currently preparing an opinion (TEN/390) on the impact of social

networking websites. The aim of the public hearing organised in the context of this opinion is to increase insight into the different aspects on this complex matter and to gain comprehensive expertise about the relevance and practicality of the proposed measures. This public hearing will bring together various stakeholders and prominent experts, representing NGOs and child protection organisations, the ICT and the internet industries, distinguished policy-makers, representatives of Brussels-based Permanent Representations and think tanks, the Committee of the Regions and the EESC, who will present and discuss their on-going work on this issue at various levels across and beyond the EU. Input from these discussions will be reviewed at the study group meeting on this opinion and potentially incorporated into its final draft text.

The event is free of charge, however places are limited so early registration is essential. For additional information contact the TEN Section Secretariat via [ten@eesc.europa.eu](mailto:ten@eesc.europa.eu).

### **Safer Internet Forum 2009**

22-23 October 2009, Luxembourg

The 2009 edition of the Safer Internet Forum will take place in Luxembourg on 22 and 23 October and the main theme will be "Promoting internet safety in schools". The Forum will be open to stakeholders from NGOs, governments, researchers, and industry representatives. For more information click [here](#).

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## **News from the UK and Around the World**

### [Minister for Science and Innovation welcomes creation of Science and Technology Select Committee](#)

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills – UK – 26 June 2009

The establishment of a new Select Committee for Science and Technology by MPs has been welcomed by Lord Drayson, Minister for Science and Innovation.

### [EC calls for one world internet governance](#)

The Register – UK – 18 June 2009

The European Commission is calling for the United States to let go of ICANN and place it under international supervision.

### [Europe Looks to Step up Fight Against Cybercrime](#)

PC World – 11 June 2009

The European Commission is seeking to strengthen cooperation between law enforcement and private industry worldwide as well as increase penalties for those engaged in cybercrime, a senior official said on Wednesday.

Please note that any views expressed in the articles above have not been endorsed by the Internet Watch Foundation.

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## **IWF Literature**

The IWF has a wide range of free promotional material for the public, IT professionals and the police. Click [here](#) to view the literature available.

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