



Internet Watch Foundation Newsletter

Welcome to issue 3 of the 2010 IWF e-newsletter series...

Our Annual Report 2009 will be published later this month and will provide up-to-date details of our activities during the year as well as data and trends regarding the scale, scope and changes in child sexual abuse content on the internet. If you are interested to receive a copy, please email media@iwf.org.uk with your address.

During March our Chief Executive spoke at a cybercrime conference in Ukraine to share our self-regulatory approach with an international audience. We met with the European Financial Coalition and attended the launch of Professor Tanya Byron's review of progress to her strategic report 'Safer Children in a Digital World'. You can read more about this below.

Features in this newsletter include **IWF News**, **Stakeholder News**, **a Parliamentary Debate** 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 with your thoughts and ideas.

IWF News

Extension to IWF Hotline service

In June 2009 the Ministry of Justice asked us to extend our national Hotline to enable the public to report online non-photographic visual depictions of the sexual abuse of children, covered by Sections 62 to 69 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.

Following consultation with our Funding Council of [industry members](#), in October 2009 the [IWF Board](#) informed government of our agreement to fulfil this role from 6 April 2010.

This means the public can now report non-photographic visual depictions, such as computer-generated images, of the sexual abuse of children to the IWF if they are on a UK website. We will take action to have this content removed, in partnership with the police and the hosting provider, if it is hosted in the UK and is judged to meet all three of the legislative criteria.

For more information on the legislation and our role regarding this content please see: <http://www.iwf.org.uk/police/page.223.621.htm>

Stakeholder News

New Government Procurement Policy: Blocking access to child sexual abuse web pages

On 5 March the Government published a new procurement policy that requires all Government departments and their agencies, offices and non-departmental public bodies to ensure that when specifying for internet related services they include a requirement to block access to web pages depicting child sexual abuse.

The Government has for some time supported the disruption of online child sexual abuse content by encouraging internet service providers to block access to web pages on the IWF URL list.

Since 2004 many companies have chosen to make use of this list to protect their customers, namely, internet service providers, mobile operators, search providers, and filtering companies.

Every URL on the list depicts indecent images of children, advertisements for or links to such content. The list typically contains around 500 URLs at any one time and is updated twice a day to ensure all entries are live. As well as making the internet a safer place for everyone, this initiative can help to diminish the re-victimisation of children by restricting opportunities to view their sexual abuse and can help to disrupt the accessibility and supply of images to those who seek them out.

For more information about the IWF list of child sexual abuse URLs and for a comprehensive list of FAQs on the subject visit: <http://www.iwf.org.uk/public/page.148.htm>

For full details about the Government procurement policy visit:
http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/PPN_05_10_Blocking_illegal_sites.pdf (PDF 128KB)

European Commission calls for stronger sanctions against child sexual abuse

On 29 March the European Commission adopted a proposal for a new Directive on combating sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child sexual abuse images. It follows a previous proposal tabled in 2009. The Directive, if approved, will replace current EU legislation from 2004 (Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA).

Some of the methods outlined by the proposal to fight these crimes include:

- Severe criminal sanctions across the EU for sexual abuse and exploitation. New forms of abuse will also be covered, such as grooming, viewing child sexual abuse images without downloading files, and making children pose sexually in front of webcams.
- Travelling child sex offenders face prosecutions when returning to home country.
- Child victims will be protected against additional trauma resulting from interviews by law enforcement and judicial authorities, or having to be exposed in front of the public in court, and will be helped by a free lawyer.
- Every offender should be assessed individually and offered tailor-made treatment to stop them abusing again.
- Prohibitions on activities involving contact with children imposed on offenders should be effective not just in the country where they were convicted but across the EU.
- Member States shall take the necessary measures to obtain the removal of internet pages containing or disseminating child sexual abuse images. If such websites are difficult to remove, Member States will be obliged to ensure that access to websites containing child sexual abuse images can be blocked.

To read the proposal in full visit:
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/news/intro/doc/com_2010_94_en.pdf (PDF 85KB)

'Do we have safer children in a digital world?' – Progress since the 2008 Byron Review

On 29 March the Rt Hon. Ed Balls MP, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, welcomed Professor Tanya Byron's progress report on improving children's digital safety since the publication of her 2008 review, 'Safer Children in a Digital World'.

The progress report celebrates the UK as a world-leading precedent through the establishment of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) and the important advances that have been made, particularly around raising public awareness of how to keep children safe online and teaching children how to stay safe through improved digital safety education.

Professor Byron also congratulated UKCCIS on publishing the first UK child internet safety strategy in December 2009, whilst at the same time urging the Government and industry to deliver what was set out in the strategy last December and to continue to develop their safeguarding measures along with the development of the digital world.

The Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families have asked that the UKCCIS Executive Board respond to all the recommendations by 31 July 2010.

For more information click [here](#).

Government launches a National Plan for Digital Participation

The Rt Hon. Stephen Timms MP, Minister for Digital Britain, launched the National Plan for Digital Participation in March in which the Government has set a target of a 60% reduction in the 12.5 million people who are not online in the UK.

The Minister for Digital Britain, Rt Hon. Stephen Timms MP, said: "Being online is crucial for participation in the 21st Century society – the internet unlocks a wealth of information and services, giving people more choice in life and access to a range of education, health and financial opportunities.

"That is why we have set an ambitious target to get 60% of those 12.5 million people who aren't online, online in four years. Our National Plan is an exciting project which will provide the leadership and framework for existing and emerging digital participation projects to drive a more inclusive Digital Britain.

"Bringing people online for the first time and enabling people to interact more creatively will enrich our society and we will ensure no one is left behind."

More information and the National Plan can be found here:

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/News/features/2010/3/government-drive-7-million-people-online>

Digital Participation Consortium website launched

The Digital Participation Consortium is a UK-wide coalition of Government, industry and third sector organisations drawn from across the foundation areas of Digital Inclusion, Digital Life Skills and Digital Media Literacy. They are committed to increasing Digital Participation and achieving greater impact through better coordination and encouraging collaboration between members.

To visit the new website go to: <http://www.digitalparticipation.com/>

Parliamentary Debate

Online Child and Adult Protection Debate

On 16 March, Chair of apComms, John Robertson MP led a debate on Online Child and Adult

Protection in the House of Commons.

To read the full debate which focuses on social networking websites, blocking child sexual abuse content, UKCCIS and child protection online click [here](#).

IWF Literature

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

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