

An Garda Síochána

*Oifig an Bhleachtaire Cheunfóirt
Búró Náisiúnta um Imscrúdú Coiriúil,
Cearnóg Fhearchair,
Sráid Fhearchair,
Baile Átha Cliath 2,
Éire.*

*Tel/Teileafón: 353 1 6663369
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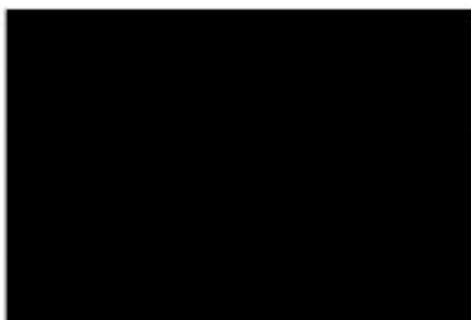


*Detective Superintendent's Office,
National Bureau of Criminal
Investigation,
Harcourt Square,
Harcourt Street,
Dublin 2, Ireland.*

*Web site: www.garda.ie
E-mail: [REDACTED]*

Please quote the following Ref No:

Date: 28 December 2010



Re: The Distribution of Child Sexual Abuse Material on the Internet

Dear [REDACTED]

As you are aware An Garda Síochána works closely with your organisation and other Internet Service Providers in identifying those persons using the internet to access, download and occasionally upload child sexual abuse material, known under Irish legislation as 'child pornography'. The vast majority of these cases are brought to our attention by police forces in other jurisdictions investigating the distribution of child sexual abuse material. Internet Protocol (IP) Address data resulting from such investigations often refers to Irish citizens and residents who have downloaded images, video clip files and/or text stories illustrating the sexual abuse of children.

The unit responsible for conducting and co-ordinating such investigations in this jurisdiction is the Paedophile Investigation Unit (PIU), which is part of the

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Investigation Unit at An Garda Síochána's National Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

In order to produce this material, children are sexually abused and exploited in every way imaginable. Many criminals organise the sexual abuse of children, the production of images and video files depicting that abuse and the commercial distribution of that material using websites. There are also many people with a sexual interest in children who abuse children and deliberately record that sexual abuse so that they can distribute images and video clips through websites.

When Gardai, and police officers worldwide, interview people suspected of the production, distribution or possession of this material, many say they first became involved when they accessed the material on the internet. They often claim that initial curiosity became an obsession and led to them being caught breaking the law.

Every time one of your customers accesses such a website he/she increases the demand for the production of such images, which leads to more children being sexually abused to create new material. Furthermore, the children whose abuse is already on the internet have to live with the fact that images and video clips of that abuse are permanently available on the internet. Thus, they are constantly being subjected to further abuse by those distributing, accessing and downloading the material depicting that abuse.

Along with many other European police forces An Garda Síochána, represented by the Paedophile Investigation Unit, is currently seeking to implement a blocking technology operated by Internet Service Providers with the assistance of the police in each country throughout Europe.

With a view to preventing the distribution of child sexual abuse material and protecting your customers and their children from inadvertently accessing such material, An Garda Síochána is keen to implement a blocking technology in partnership with your company and other Internet Service Providers. We propose that members of An Garda Síochána investigate and identify those domains and sub-domains being used to distribute 'child pornography' as defined by Section 2 of the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act, 1998. The Gardaí would then forward a list of the relevant domain and sub-domain names to your company requesting that you block your customers' access to those websites and re-direct that customer to a STOP! page (sample attached) explaining to the customer what has happened.

As can be seen in the attached sample STOP! page, An Garda Síochána acknowledges the fact that the customer may have accessed the site unintentionally. It is clear that genuine ISP customers are inadvertently accessing such material and reporting it to either An Garda Síochána or the ISPAI Hotline. Children of ISP customers also appear to be accessing the material.

Bearing the above in mind, this process will never involve An Garda Síochána requesting data (eg IP Address data, etc.) that may identify the customer who has attempted to access blocked websites. However, we would hope to obtain details of other websites visited by the user, along with other technical details, in order that we can identify any new websites that require blocking. We will also be engaged, with our European colleagues, in attempting to track the creators of those sites and take any lawful action available. This process would never require identification of your customers. It would be used as a harm reduction measure to prevent the distribution of child sexual abuse material,

identify those responsible for creating the websites and take any necessary and appropriate lawful action against them.

I would be obliged if you could provide details of those with whom I should make contact in your company to progress this matter and discuss any concerns you may have.

I am confident that this is a project that can proactively combat child sexual abuse on the internet while yielding significant benefits in terms of a positive corporate image for your company and the Irish ISP sector generally. I look forward to working with you and your company to achieve these aims.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate in contacting myself or Detective Sergeant Michael Lynch of the Paedophile Investigation Unit. Detective Sergeant Lynch may be contacted at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

 Detective Superintendent
(John McCann)



Your Internet browser is attempting to contact an Internet site that has been documented by An Garda Síochána as having been used in the distribution of material depicting the sexual abuse of children, defined as child pornography by Section 2 of the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act, 1998. Production, Distribution and/or Possession, of this material is a criminal offence in accordance with that Act.

If you have any objections to being protected from accessing this page, or you believe that this protection is incorrect or unjustified, please contact An Garda Síochána by sending an email to divsainfo@garda.ie



No information about your IP address or any other information that can be used to identify you will be stored when this page is displayed. The purpose of preventing access to such pages is to protect consumers including children from viewing documented child sexual abuse and to prevent the further exploitation of children who have already been abused and photographed.

If you are a domain owner whose site has been blocked and you believe this is in error please follow the instructions at this link to make a complaint:

<http://www.europol.europa.eu/index.asp?page=FunnelIntro>

The Internet Child Protection System (ICPS) is part of the COSPOL Internet Related Child Abusive Material Project (CIRCAMP). The project was initiated by the European Chiefs of Police and is aimed at combating organized criminal groups behind the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

