

ISPAI Hotline.ie Annual Report

COVERING JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016



**IF YOU SEE CHILD SEXUAL
ABUSE IMAGERY ON THE WEB...**

REPORT IT!



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HOW TO MAKE A REPORT:

Online Report Form
@ www.hotline.ie



eMail:
report@ hotline.ie



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Find out more
www.hotline.ie

Let's never forget that behind every statistic of Online Child Sexual Abuse Imagery is a child who has been sexually exploited and in many cases actually raped – there is nothing virtual about his/her suffering!



**IF YOU
SEE IT,
DO THE**

**RIGHT
THING.
REPORT IT!**

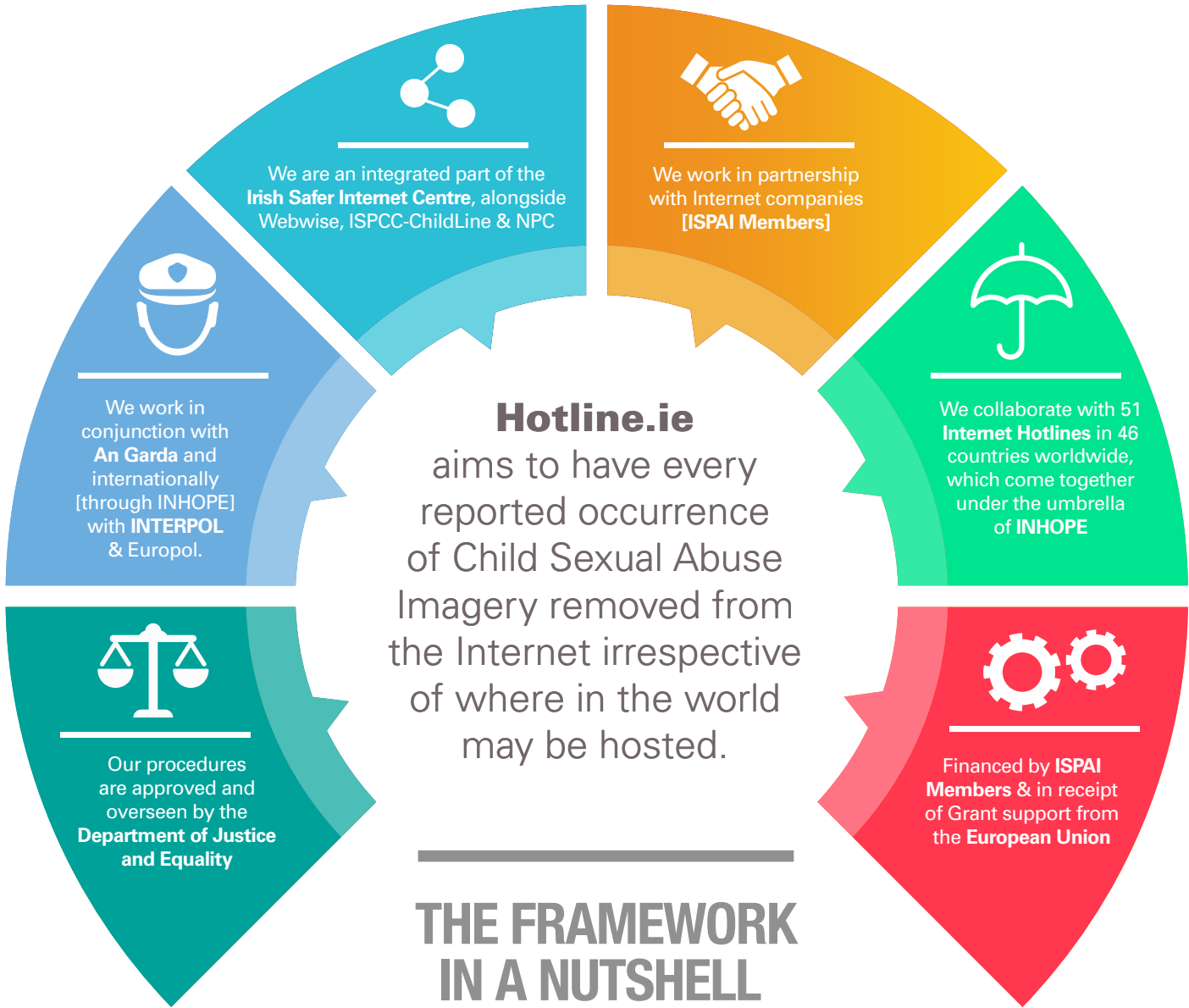
**WHERE CSAI IS FOUND, [HOTLINE.IE](https://www.hotline.ie)
WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION
AGAINST IT!**

THE FRAMEWORK

The establishment of the Hotline.ie Service within an ISP self-regulatory framework was one of the key recommendations of the Government's Working Group to tackle Illegal and Harmful Use of the Internet, in 1998.

Hotline.ie has been operating since 1999 and works in conjunction with a diverse mix of Government Agencies, Intergovernmental Bodies, Law Enforcement Agencies, the European Commission, the Internet Industry, Civil Society Organisations [including child-welfare] and other private sector partners.

We recognise the need for a global coordinated effort to ensure swift action and removal of Online Child Sexual Abuse Imagery [CSAI] at source.



WORKING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT



AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA



Every reported occurrence of Child Sexual Abuse Imagery [videos included] assessed by Hotline.ie Analysts as constituting Child Pornography [as defined by the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act, 1998] is swiftly notified directly to the Paedophile Investigation Unit of the Garda National Protective Services Bureau. These notifications may form the basis of criminal investigations and intelligence gathering within this jurisdiction and internationally via INTERPOL.

Hotline.ie's added value is that trained Analysts assess all public reports and identify content that is very probably illegal under national Law [only a Court of Law can make a judgement as to whether something is definitively illegal under the Law]. Therefore acting as a filter and enabling An Garda Síochána to focus resources on quality leads and channel their efforts on investigations, which in turn could lead to the identification of victims and offenders.

All Child Sexual Abuse Imagery [including videos] - related intelligence submitted by Hotlines to ICCAM is passed to INTERPOL. Subsequently to INTERPOL's validation the data is added to INTERPOL's International Child Sexual Exploitation [ICSE] Database – which [by the end of 2016] included data on more than 10,000 identified victims from around the world, as well as data related to numerous unidentified victims whose cases remain open investigations.

INTERPOL AND EUROPOL

In 2014 the European Commission (EC) funded the development of an International CSAI Report Management System called ICCAM, coordinated by INHOPE in partnership with INTERPOL. ICCAM was designed to enable INHOPE Member Hotlines to “fingerprint” CSAI [pictures & videos]. This feature is revolutionary in terms of adding value to the image/video analysis already undertaken by Hotlines, through the use of “hash(es)” – a unique code that is generated from the data in the image, like a digital fingerprint.

This, allows the system to (1) identify and match previously seen CSAI, which leads to faster escalation of new CSAI to Law Enforcement for child victim / offender identification purpose; (2) facilitate improved knowledge on recirculated CSAI; (3) enhance and maximise the work performed by Hotlines nationally; (4) provide a solution for dealing with CSAI distributed via TOR [the anonymity network] which makes content tracing almost impossible, by capturing CSAI, that otherwise would have been lost [these images and videos may contain the missing clue, which in turn might lead to a break-through or even solving a case]; and (5) assist in mapping CSAI movement and hosting patterns.

- INHOPE and INTERPOL hold
- regular joint training sessions
- for Content Analysts in order to
- ensure consistency of the CSAI
- assessment process on all levels.

PART OF THE IRISH SAFER INTERNET CENTRE*

The Irish SIC is coordinated by the Office for Internet Safety [Department of Justice and Equality] and is a partnership of four organisations: Webwise, ChildLine, NPC and ISPAI Hotline.ie with one mission - to promote the safe and responsible use of technology for young people. The partnership was appointed by the European Commission as the Safer Internet Centre for Ireland in 2008 and is one of the 31 SICs of the Insafe network.

The Irish SIC provides three main services:

INTERNET SAFETY AWARENESS NODE LED BY WEBWISE

To promote the autonomous, effective and safer use of the Internet by young people through a sustained information and awareness strategy targeting parents, teachers and children themselves with consistent and relevant messages and campaigns.

HELPLINE

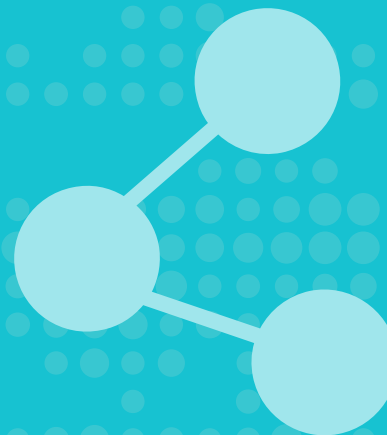
ISPC-run ChildLine and the NPC support line for parents and guardians.

ChildLine provides a 24 hour free confidential listening service for all children up to the age of 18. ChildLine can take reports on grooming and cyberbullying and forward them to the appropriate authorities.

NPC Helpline is a confidential service for parents and guardians offering support and information.

HOTLINE

Hotline.ie (1) provides a free, easy to access reporting service where Internet Users may anonymously report suspected illegal content, particularly CSAI in a secure and confidential way; (2) has trained and internationally certified Content Analysts to verify if the content is probably illegal CSAI under Irish Law and trace its source; (3) issues qualified Notice & Takedown to have Child Sexual Abuse Imagery removed, irrespective of its location on the Internet.



*[Irish SIC]

WORKING WITH INTERNET COMPANIES (ISPAI MEMBERS)

The Hotline.ie-Internet Industry relationship simultaneously protects Internet Users, as well as child victims of sexual abuse from re-victimisation by ensuring removal of CSAI at source.

Even if they are business competitors or provide different types of Internet service [access, hosting, search, etc.], differ in size and revenue, may disagree on policy development and pan-Industry issues, ISPAI Members are united in taking action against CSAI.

The sheer existence of Hotline.ie would not be possible without the funding, support and collaborative efforts of ISPAI Members.



WORKING WITH INHOPE MEMBER HOTLINES

INHOPE is the umbrella organisation uniting 52 Internet Hotlines [in 47 countries worldwide] engaged in combating Online Child Sexual Abuse Imagery and Child Sexual Exploitation.

INHOPE was established to support Internet Hotlines around the world in dealing with Online CSAI and to provide the means for Hotlines to exchange CSAI-related intelligence, without delay, to a trusted counterpart in the source country [where the CSAI is actually hosted] so that swift action could be taken to remove the content from the Internet while preserving evidence for police investigation.

INHOPE is the organisation responsible for building and expanding this network of trust which is instrumental in the global fight against CSAI.



To all our partners for their support and making our work possible



WORDS MATTER – A TERMINOLOGY NOTE

In our line of work - when dealing with potentially criminal content on the Internet, particularly Child Sexual Abuse Imagery or activities relating to the sexual exploitation of children – accuracy is paramount.

In assessing suspected CSAI content reported to Hotline.ie our Content Analysts rely on the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act, 1998. According to the Act “child” means “a person under the age of 17 years”.

The age of sexual consent as defined by law means engaging a child below the age of 17 years in sexual activities is prohibited under all circumstances and any presumed “consent” from a child to sexual exploitative or abusive acts is null and void.

Online Child Sexual Abuse is not a new and distinct form of sexual abuse, but rather new manifestation facilitated by the availability and fast evolution of information & communication technologies [ICTs]. For example, acts of Child Sexual Abuse being photographed or video recorded, uploaded and made available on the Internet, whether for personal use or

for sharing with other like-minded individuals. Each repeated viewing and/or sharing of such recorded material constitutes a perpetuated violation of the rights of the child, to which we refer as re-victimisation.

Real children are being abused on camera and film and there is nothing virtual [“Online”] about their suffering!

While the legal term in Ireland is “Child Pornography”, to accurately reflect the gravity and very nature of the content as well as challenge any notion that such acts might be carried out pursuant to the consent of the child, we will use herein the term Child Sexual Abuse Imagery [CSAI].



REMOVAL OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IMAGERY FROM THE INTERNET

The only way of curtailing the availability and perpetuation of Child Sexual Abuse Imagery on the Internet, and re-victimisation of the children is the removal of these horrific images and videos at source. Hotline.ie's priority is to have every reported instance of CSAI removed rapidly from the Internet irrespective of jurisdiction.

In Ireland, Hotline.ie works in partnership with ISPAI Members [Internet companies: access, hosting, search, eCommunication providers] and in conjunction with An Garda Síochána.

The Online distribution of CSAI is a global issue as quite often the child victim may be sexually abused in one country, the images of the abuse uploaded to the Internet in a different jurisdiction, hosted on servers in yet another and the content accessible anywhere in the world. To ensure international reach and swift-decisive action against CSAI, Hotline.ie works in conjunction with 51 Internet Hotlines in 46 countries worldwide, which come together under the umbrella organisation INHOPE; and through INHOPE with INTERPOL and Europol.

The process through which CSAI is removed from the Internet is called "Notice & Takedown". When the reported content is assessed by Hotline.ie Analysts as CSAI under Irish Law, the location on the Internet is then traced.

IF CSAI IS TRACED: TO IRELAND

- The Internet Service Provider [ISP] is identified;
- Hotline.ie issues a Notice to An Garda Síochána as the decision to initiate a criminal investigation is a matter for Law Enforcement alone;
- Takedown Notice is issued to the appropriate ISP which is then responsible for the removal of the specified content from their systems while preserving the forensic evidence for police investigation.

IF CSAI IS TRACED: OUTSIDE IRISH JURISDICTION

- IF a INHOPE Member Hotline exists in the source country, all technical details [including Hotline.ie's determination], are forwarded to the Hotline, so that the relevant Law may be applied and appropriate authorities involved for swift action and removal of the content from the Internet.
- IF the content is located in a country with NO INHOPE Member Hotline, then Hotline.ie will send the technical details [including tracing and Hotline.ie's determination] to the source country through international Law Enforcement channels.

Although the Notice and Takedown mechanism has stood the test of time and proven to be effective, there is no time for complacency. The rate of success depends on the: (1) existence of Internet Hotlines; (2) vigilance of Internet Users and their readiness to report suspected CSAI; and (3) existence of global coordinated multi-stakeholder approach where everyone from Government, Law Enforcement and the whole Internet Industry has a role to play.

ISPAI Members have zero tolerance to CSAI, and are determined as ever to swiftly act against the proliferation of this content on the Internet. By funding Hotline.ie and working hand in hand with us, they make sure their networks are safe and that they are in a position to act against CSAI if it does somehow get placed on their networks.

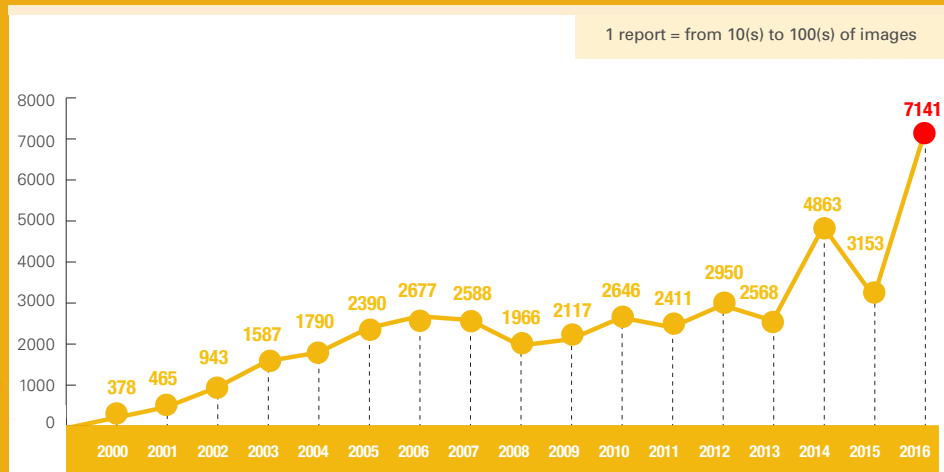
Since the inception of Hotline.ie action on all confirmed CSAI cases hosted in Ireland has been taken within 24 hours.

VOLUME OF REPORTS RECEIVED EACH YEAR

EVOLUTION OF REPORTS 2000 – 2016

A report is a “single reference” about suspect content on the Internet. For example, in its most simple form, a report is where an Internet User notifies Hotline.ie of the existence of a URL [i.e. address of a web page] that they might have accidentally encountered while using the Internet and they believe may contain illegal content.

The use of “URL” refers to content on the open web [accessible by anyone from anywhere in the world], as opposed to other types of Online services such as Peer-to-Peer. A URL may, in fact, contain multiple images and/or videos, text, virtual content [anime] etc. and link to other pages or websites. Under current agreed procedures, irrespective of how many images/videos a URL contains [in most cases tens to hundreds] on assessment – this is recorded as 1 report in Hotline.ie’s Report Management System.



In the 12 month period from 1st January to 31st December 2016, Hotline.ie received and processed an unprecedented number of reports 7,141, which marks an increase of 47% from the previous highest year on record [2014, 4,863 reports].

BREAKDOWN OF REPORTS

RECEIVED & PROCESSED IN 2016, BY REPORTING CHANNELS



PUBLIC REPORTS



DERIVED FROM PUBLIC REPORTS



INTERNET HOTLINES

PUBLIC REPORTS VS. PROACTIVE VS. DERIVED REPORTS

By “**public reports**” we refer to notifications received from public sources [Internet Users] through our reporting tool www.hotline.ie or other Internet Hotlines via the INHOPE network; while “**proactive**” means to actively seek out illegal CSAI on the Internet.

Hotline.ie relies 100% on public reports, as it is not mandated by Government to engage in proactive search.

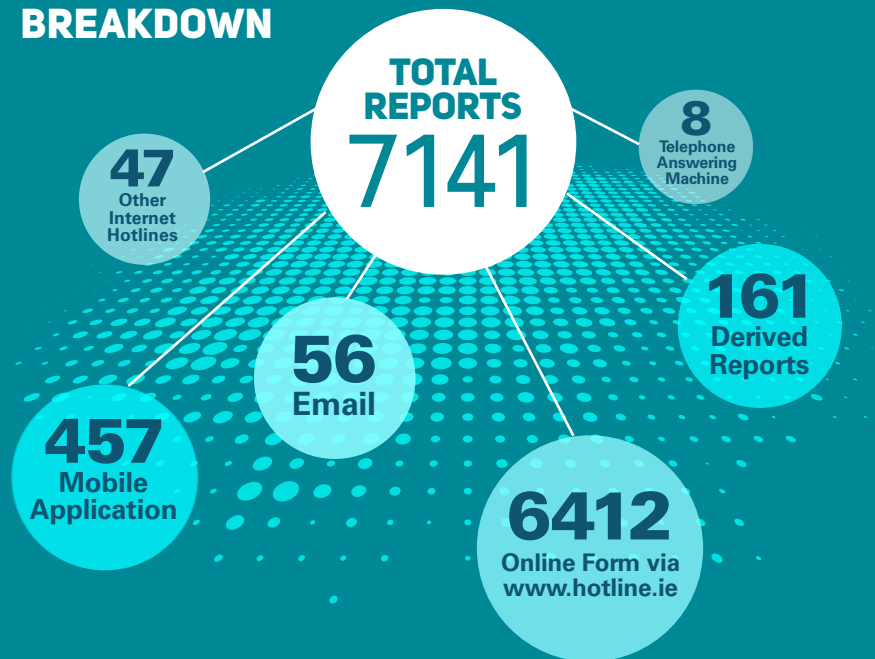
Occasionally when assessing content referred to in a public report, Content Analysts uncover that

the reported resource provides/promotes links or other obvious references suggesting further illegal CSAI at different locations. In such cases, Hotline Analysts will follow the links / instructions in question and examine the content presented. If it is found to be CSAI under Irish Law the Analyst will create a new report for each separate location found and these will be acted on using the same procedures as for public reports. We refer to these instances as “**Derived Reports**”.

2016 BREAKDOWN

REPORT SOURCES

- 01. Public Reports
- 02. Derived from Public Reports
- 03. Internet Hotlines



BREAKDOWN OF REPORTS

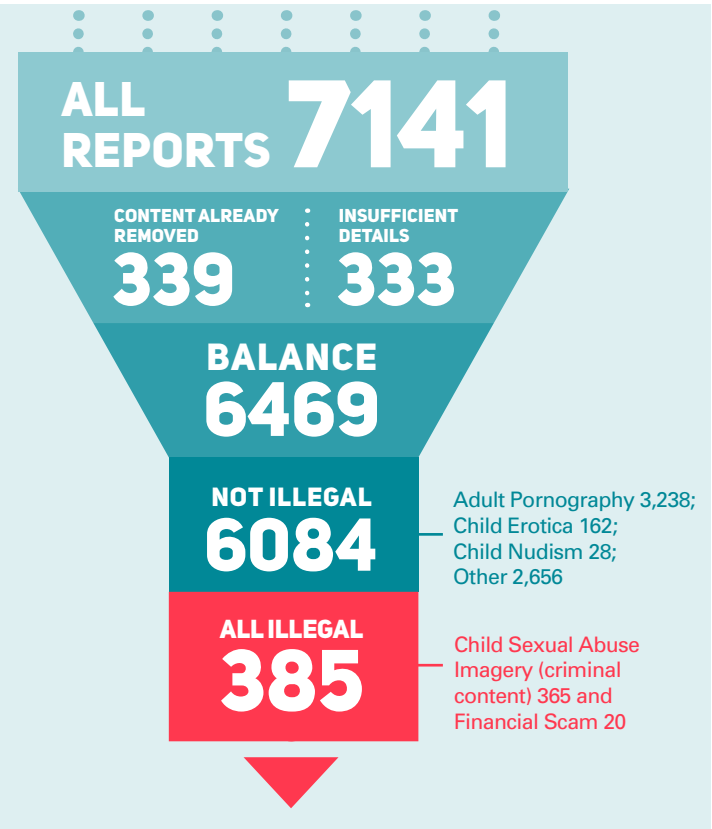
RECEIVED & PROCESSED IN 2016, BY DETERMINATION

When Hotline.ie closes a report as **“Insufficient Details”** it means the reporter did not provide sufficient information for the Content Analyst to work out: (1) where on the Internet the suspected illegal content could be accessed; or (2) what is being suspected as illegal content.

Examples of common insufficient information instances: (a) no URL (link) provided with the description of the content; (b) to gain access to the reported content, username & password or premium account is required, but not provided by the reporter; (c) where a whole website [i.e. www.hotline.ie] or forum [hundreds of threads – where each may have tens to hundreds of postings – with more links to third party resources, etc.]; (d) search results on adult pornographic sites displaying tens to hundreds of videos, categories, links, etc.

For the latter two, as Hotline.ie is not mandated by Government and An Garda to actively seek out CSAI on the Internet, the Content Analyst will only assess the content displayed at the location that is being reported. Needless to say, our success rate in accessing and identifying suspected illegal content depends on the accuracy of the information submitted to us.

The **“Already Removed”** determination is recorded by Content Analysts only when there is a clear message displayed at the reported location, stating the content had been removed. Sometimes the content may be removed by the provider [owner] or if it breaches Terms & Conditions. Hence, in most cases, Hotline.ie has no way of knowing beyond reasonable doubt whether the removed content would have been contrary to Irish Law or not.



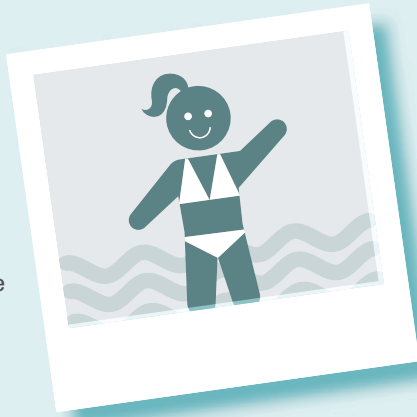
BREAKDOWN OF REPORTS

RECEIVED & PROCESSED IN 2016, WHY CHILD EROTICA & CHILD NUDISM FALL UNDER THE DETERMINATION **NOT ILLEGAL**

CHILD EROTICA:

This category refers to content where children may be posing semi-nude or in a sexualised manner, but is not illegal as it does not meet the criteria set in Law for CSAI. Sexualised images do not necessarily represent sexual abuse of a child. Such images could also be, for i.e. a family picture of a child in a bikini or in her mother's high heels. Sexualisation is not always an objective criterion, and the crucial element in such a case is the intent of a person to use such an image for sexual purposes [i.e. for sexual arousal or gratification].

If this type of images were found to be hosted in Ireland on an ISPAI Member's facilities Hotline.ie would notify the ISP to consider removing the content under the ISPAI Code of Practice and Ethics or their Terms of Use.



CHILD NUDISM:

This category refers to content where children may be naked but the photo or video was not produced for pornographic purposes. Examples include pictures of naked children in famine or war zone situations, naturist sites where pictures are taken in family contexts, or images taken for medical reasons which are presented in a medical context.



CSAI SUSPICION VS. CONFIRMED

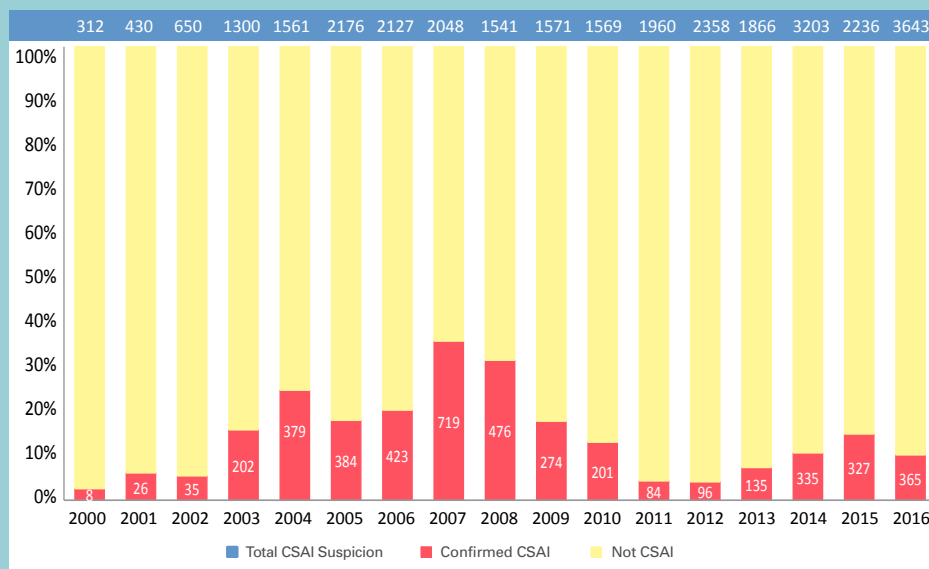
When an Internet User submits a report to Hotline.ie there is usually a specific reason given or implied - to which we refer as suspicion.

Where Hotline.ie's smart web forms are used, it is mandatory to select from the drop down menu the type of suspected illegal content one is about to report. If no suspicion is given or the Content Analyst cannot decisively deduce from the description the reporter's reason, the "suspicion" is set to "other".

The suspicion recorded is taken purely from the words used by the reporter and is recorded in advance of any attempt by Content Analysts to access and analyse the content. Thus, the use of the terms "suspicion" and "confirmed" or "determined", the latter two being attributed to a report after the assessment process is completed.

Hotline.ie strongly recommends the use of the Online forms when making a report. These are designed to request relevant technical details based on suspicion, type of resource [where the content was encountered], etc., crucial in the assessment process.

Mapping Confirmed CSAI as % of CSAI Suspicion reported each year

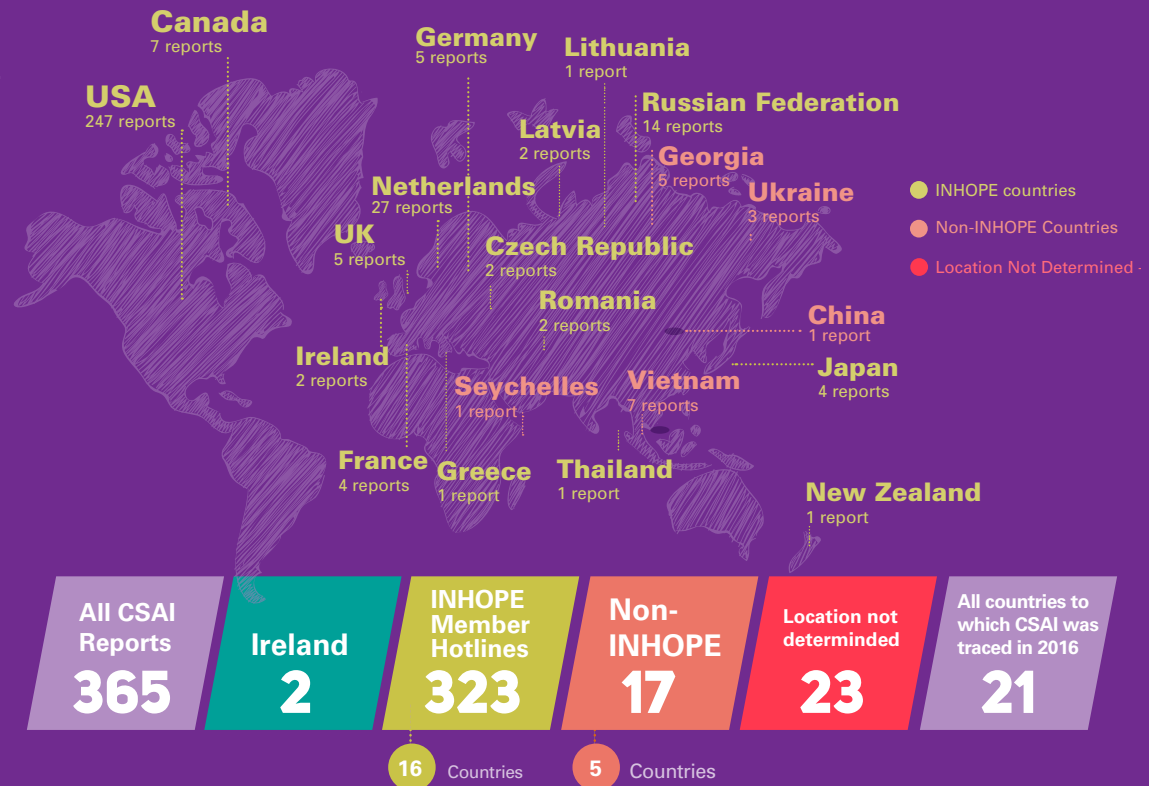


SNIPPET OF CSAI HOSTING AS TRACED BY HOTLINE.IE IN 2016

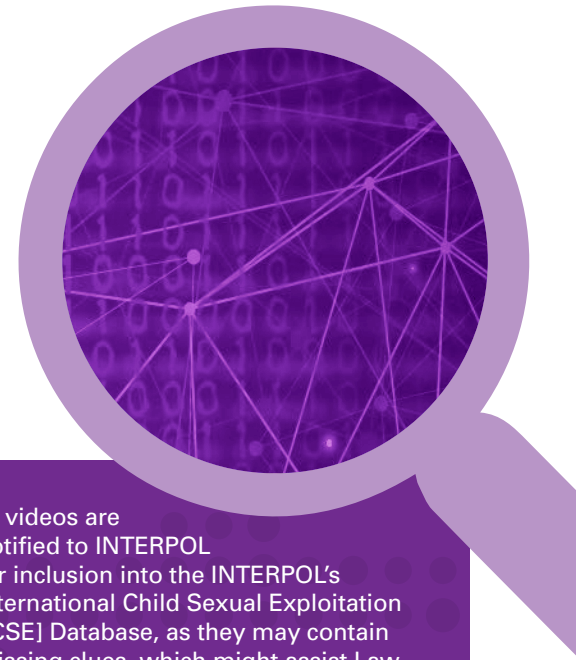
It is almost impossible to piece together the full picture in terms of the absolute scale [volume] and hosting patterns of Online Child Sexual Abuse Imagery. Although significant technological progress is being made, to date there is still no way to accurately project the full global or even national scale of CSAI availability and distribution.

The Internet is intricate, extremely fluid and borderless. Furthermore, the broad range of Internet enabled devices, increasingly fast technological developments and high speed Internet access lead to unforeseeable amounts of content being created, distributed and shared on the Internet every single minute. In addition, criminals constantly find new or more sophisticated ways to share and exchange CSAI. That is why, uninterrupted Hotline service, greater awareness of where and how to report suspected CSAI and global coordinated approach, are crucial in tackling the proliferation of this content on the Internet.

*in most cases 1 report = from 10(s) to 100(s) of images



SNIPPET OF CSAI HOSTING AS TRACED BY HOTLINE.IE IN 2016



On a positive note, Hotline.ie's findings reveal, Ireland continues to remain virtually free of Child Sexual Abuse Imagery hosting, with only 2 CSAI reports in 2016.

Unfortunately the hosting provider is not an ISPAI Member, resulting in these cases being typically prone to longer Takedown times [removal of CSAI from the Internet] due to the lack of standardised escalation process, i.e.

- (1) no dedicated point of contact
- (2) no prior acknowledgement of Hotline.ie having the expertise to be authoritative in determining that content is illegal under Irish law
- (3) no agreed Takedown and preservation of evidence for Law Enforcement investigation procedures, etc.

In addition, Hotline.ie actioned 340 CSAI reports traced outside Irish jurisdiction, of which 323 to 15 Hotline counterparts worldwide and 17 to 5 non-INHOPE countries [Ukraine, Vietnam, Georgia, Seychelles & the Republic of China].

Also, for 23 CSAI reports the location on the Internet could not be determined. As criminals constantly find new convoluted ways to avoid detection, tracing is not always straightforward, conclusive or successful. In some cases it is impossible for Content Analysts to tell the source jurisdiction.

Onion occurrences [TOR - the anonymity network – related] responsible for 57% of CSAI reports where the location could not be determined. However, in 2016 the ratio of Onion incidences of all CSAI reports [365] was 3.6%, which marks a considerable decrease from 2015, 49% [Onion incidents of all CSAI (327)]. These untraceable CSAI images and/

or videos are notified to INTERPOL for inclusion into the INTERPOL's International Child Sexual Exploitation [ICSE] Database, as they may contain missing clues, which might assist Law Enforcement open investigations.

GIVEN THE GLOBAL NATURE OF THE INTERNET, IRELAND CANNOT OPERATE IN ISOLATION AND WE ARE COMMITTED AS EVER TO CONTINUE WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL HOTLINE COUNTERPARTS TO ENSURE SWIFT ACTION AGAINST IDENTIFIED CSAI IRRESPECTIVE OF WHERE IN THE WORLD IT MAY BE HOSTED.

AN ANATOMY OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IMAGERY [2016]

In 2016, 10% of all reports quoting as suspicion CSAI [3,643] were confirmed by our Content Analysts as Child Sexual Abuse Imagery under the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act, 1998.

20% of the confirmed CSAI were disguised websites solely dedicated to Child Sexual Abuse Imagery.

Hotline.ie uses the term “**disguised websites**” to refer to those occurrences where CSAI is displayed only when a pre-established digital path [i.e. links from other websites] is followed. On this note, forums, banner/link sites, bulletin boards, URL shorteners or website URL redirect may be misused either individually or as a chained-digital path that would eventually enable access to Child Sexual Abuse Imagery.

When a disguised website is accessed directly through a browser, legal – i.e. adult pornographic - content is mostly displayed.

In a nutshell, disguised websites will display different content based on the digital path the user takes. Since 2014, **Hotline.ie has witnessed a year-on-year rise in disguised websites dedicated to CSAI.** In many cases these websites link to other similar ones and/or advertise further links to CSAI that are hosted in image hosts and/or cyberlockers.

It has become apparent to Internet Hotlines worldwide that over the years certain CSAI websites operate collectively moving together across hosting providers in different jurisdictions and advertising their content across various platforms. Some may frequently change the URLs associated to their websites, change or temporarily “park” domains, as well as using multiple image hosts.

Our Content Analysts have noted that **Fast Flux DNS** is also used in the distribution of CSAI. The Fast Flux DNS technique abuses the way the domain name system works. The basic concept of a Fast Flux network is having multiple

IP addresses associated with a domain name, and then constantly changing them in quick succession.

The consequence of IP addresses being changed within very short periods [as short as 5 minutes] - despite requesting to see the same website - is that tracing [location] queries can return different results. This in turn makes pinpointing the CSAI source location very difficult while also considerably increasing the processing times per report.



The infographic below shows a breakdown of resources and services misused, in 2016, for Child Sexual Abuse Imagery distribution. Researchers agree the Internet is intricate, vast and akin to an iceberg only a small fraction easily visible.

The make-up of the “Internet iceberg” is so complex that even academics studying it don’t seem to fully agree; which is most likely rooted in the dynamic nature and fast paced technological evolution.

The analogy is meant to help you visualise some of the challenges faced by Hotlines in tackling the Online distribution of CSAI.

It’s worth noting that the average Internet Users would be paddling about in the Common Web and by means of links/ references available at this level i.e. through search engine results, venture into the Surface Web.

In respect of the Deep Web one should not think of it as all “bad”, when in fact only a small portion of it called the Dark Web is used for illicit purpose.

SERVICES MISUSED FOR CSAI DISTRIBUTION IN 2016

Part of the Internet still visible and accessible – i.e. forums; temp e-mail service; Amazon & eBay & other more common Internet content.

1st layers: part of the Internet that is hidden from conventional search engines, as by encryption, robots.txt; the aggregate of unindexed websites - i.e. anon boards; web archives; ad pop-ups, torrents & P2P, etc.

Part of the Internet readily available to the general public and searchable with search engines; i.e. social networking sites; e-Mail services; YouTube; games, etc.

COMMON WEB SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

17%

SURFACE WEB FORUMS 15% & ANY OTHER* 15% [*search results, blogs, app related, etc.]

30%

DEEP WEB BANNER/LINK SITES 14%; VIDEO STREAMING 3%; IMAGE HOSTING 24%; CYBERLOCKERS 12%

53%

DEEP WEB: DEEPER LAYERS

i.e. Business intranets, password protected websites, virtual reality, spambots and spiders, hacking guides, etc.

The most common software used to access the Dark Web is **THE ONION BROWSER** known as **TOR**.

DARK WEB

Part of the Deep Web intentionally hidden and inaccessible through standard web browsers.

This illustration is a simplified indicative mock-up of the “Internet iceberg” and not absolute to all instances of a particular type of resource or service.



Image hosts are consistently being abused for the Online distribution of Child Sexual Abuse Imagery. In 2016, Hotline.ie witnessed a 98% increase [from 2015 figures] in the misuse of image hosting for CSAI distribution. Criminals use image hosts to store CSAI images which are then presented on dedicated CSAI websites or advertised in forums, chatrooms, etc.

Where our Content Analysts come across this technique, they make sure the framework website is actioned for Takedown, as well as each of the embedded CSAI from the image hosting service. This is to ensure CSAI is removed at source, entailing simultaneous removal from all other websites in which it could have been embedded, even if those websites are unknown to Hotlines!

Hotline.ie uses the term “**banner/link site**”

to refer to a website which consists primarily of URL [link] listings that redirect to third party websites and contains very little to no other type of content. Quite often this type of website serves as gateway or forms part of the digital path ultimately leading to a disguised website dedicated solely to CSAI. Sometimes a banner/link site may display CSAI previews alongside the URL listings.

When there is no CSAI preview, this type of resource may prove more difficult to action because in some countries URL listings are not considered to be illegal on their own, not even if they facilitate access to CSAI.

Forums are also commonly misused for CSAI distribution; however Content Analysts noted that in the last couple of years this resource is no longer an end destination, but has rather become the starting point [gateway] – the place where CSAI links and/or instructions (i.e. passwords) are exchanged. Most often these link to Cyberlocker [online service that allows users to store and share larger files] locations.

Cyberlockers, including reputable ones, are

also constantly misused for CSAI distributions. Amongst some of the features that make the service alluring: (1) as a general rule only the person who uploads the file knows the link to download or delete it; therefore one can share a private URL with someone else, and nobody on the outside is any the wiser that the file exchange has taken place [in other words it works as a very slow 1-to-1 system]; (2) search engines are not allowed in cyberlockers to index their content; and (3) some cyberlockers operate an affiliate/rewards scheme which pay users that attract downloads or new premium accounts – for example: (3.1.) an affiliate could get a flat fee or percentage of each premium account that is bought when a user clicks through to the cyberlocker and signs up for a premium account from that link. In other words if A uploads a file to “X” cyberlocker, sends B the link, and B clicks the link and buys an “X” premium account, then A will receive a percentage of the amount that B pays. (3.2.) some cyberlockers also offer a pay-per-download model or in the case of streaming cyberlockers, if streamed a specific number of times.



In the assessment of suspected CSAI cyberlocker location, when the content is only available to “premium accounts/users”, and more so, if previews of Child Sexual Abuse Imagery displayed at some stage of the digital path, Hotline.ie suspects the CSAI is no longer just for “personal use” but it is rather for commercial purpose.

We use the term “**Commercial Child Sexual Abuse Imagery**” to refer to imagery which, in the professional opinion of the Content Analyst, appears to have been produced or is being used for the purpose of financial gain by the distributor. However, given the nature of the cyberlocker affiliate/rewards and ads schemes it’s not always certain who stands to gain financially.

Generally speaking it is challenging for Hotlines worldwide to accurately assess

whether or not the identified CSAI is Commercial. The only way to check the advertised payment system [sometimes it may not even be obvious – i.e. cyberlockers] would be to conduct test transactions which are not only restricted to Law Enforcement investigations but also cannot be carried out in all EU Member States due to different national legislation.

Video streaming technologies - allowing a video to be viewed Online without being downloaded on the user’s computer or device - are also abused for the production and distribution of CSAI. However this is no longer an emerging trend but an established reality.

We would like to highlight that, in the context of CSAI video streaming, “streaming” and “webcam” merely describe technological means and have nothing to do with the intention of the perpetrator or the sexual abuse and/or exploitation of a child. Approximately 50% of the [2016] CSAI video streaming reports referred to **self-generated content**

[in many cases appearing to be at the request or instruction of an adult that a certain sexual activity be carried out]. To accurately reflect the gravity and very nature of the self-generated CSAI, as well as challenge any notion that such acts might be carried out pursuant to the consent of a child, we will use the term “**Child Sexual Abuse Imagery to order**”. However, on the severity scale these occurrences are marked as either Level 1 [explicit sexual posing of a child, showing genital and/or anal area] or Level 2 [explicit sexual activity of a child, no adult present].

We believe the children in these videos have been groomed Online most possibly while in their own homes. The grooming process takes time, has several stages and the conversation may move across platforms [from a social networking site or forum to more obscure mediums]: (a) targeting the child, (b) gaining the child’s trust, (c) filling a need, (d) isolating the victim, (e) sexualizing the relationship and (f) maintaining control.

AN ANATOMY OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IMAGERY [2016] – CONTD.



Hotline.ie suspects that many of the CSAI videos assessed in 2016 resulted from live streaming, real-time production and transmission of the video via webcam at the child's end, deliberately recorded and saved without the child's knowledge and then shared over the Internet.

This is not to say that video streaming isn't used for the worst of the worst

CSAI – the remainder 50% of CSAI video streaming reports were marked by our Content Analysts as severity level 4 [penetrative sexual activity between child and adult].

Historically our figures have indicated that social networking sites are the least abused for CSAI distribution. Some are more prone to abuse when it comes to CSAI than others, which we speculate

to be linked to policies on nudity and adult pornographic content. CSAI may be thrown in the mix with adult oriented content and cloaked by the sheer volume of content available on the platform or may be advertised, and access facilitated through image hosting or cyberlocker locations. In 2016, 17% of the confirmed CSAI reports were in connection to social networking sites.

We need to be mindful that there is a down side to everything. However the many positive aspects of the Internet should not be overshadowed by the few who chose to misuse it for harmful and even illegal activities.

AN ANATOMY OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IMAGERY [2016] – CONTD.



Over the course of 3 consecutive years and up to 2016, Hotline.ie had witnessed a general increase in Child Sexual Abuse Imagery depicting boys: 44% [2013], 42% [2014], and 70% [2015]. 2016 figures for the gender category (73% girls and 27% boys) are more consistent with prior historical and international statistics.

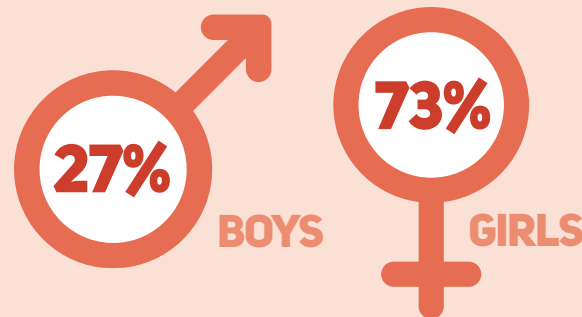
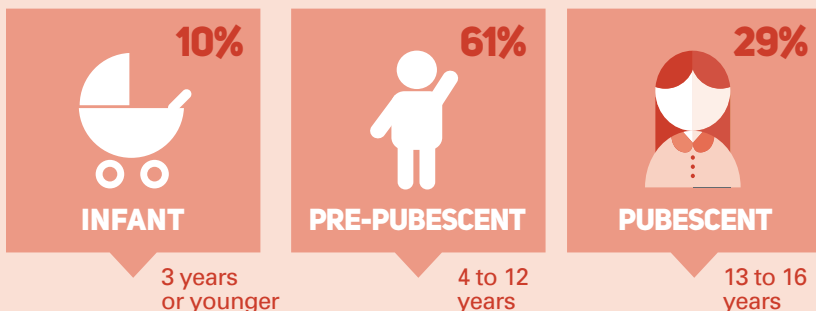
Since the inception of Hotline.ie [1999] there is one daunting fact constantly captured and present in all our statistics. The age group 4 to 12 years is being depicted in the majority of the Child Sexual Abuse Imagery year after year.

By identifying and having Child Sexual Abuse Imagery removed from the Internet Hotline.ie helps to: (1) prevent the perpetuation of the

abuse and re-victimisation, (2) reduce the availability of CSAI on the Internet, and (3) disrupt these criminal activities.

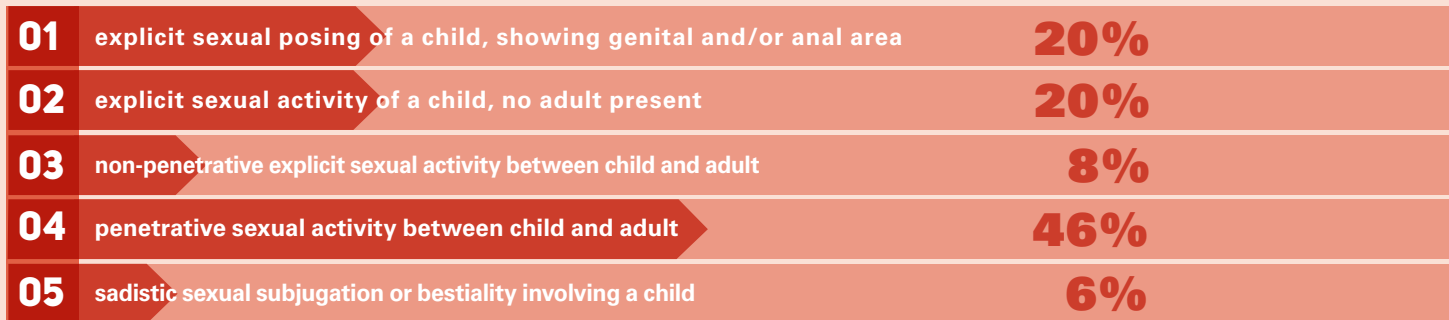
Hotline.ie is committed as ever to work most effectively with national and international partners to ensure the service remains relevant and at the forefront of the fight against Child Sexual Abuse Imagery.

THE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IMAGERY ASSESSED IN 2016, DEPICTED



LEVELS OF SEVERITY

100%



If you accidentally come across something which you suspect might be Child Sexual Abuse Imagery on the Internet, and do not report it, neither the Internet Industry nor Law Enforcement can act against it!

**JUST
BECAUSE
YOU
CLICK**

**AWAY,
IT DOESN'T
MEAN IT'S
GONE!**

**PLAY YOUR PART - REPORT IT
- SO WE COULD PLAY OURS.**

Thank you for your support!



www.ispai.ie

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