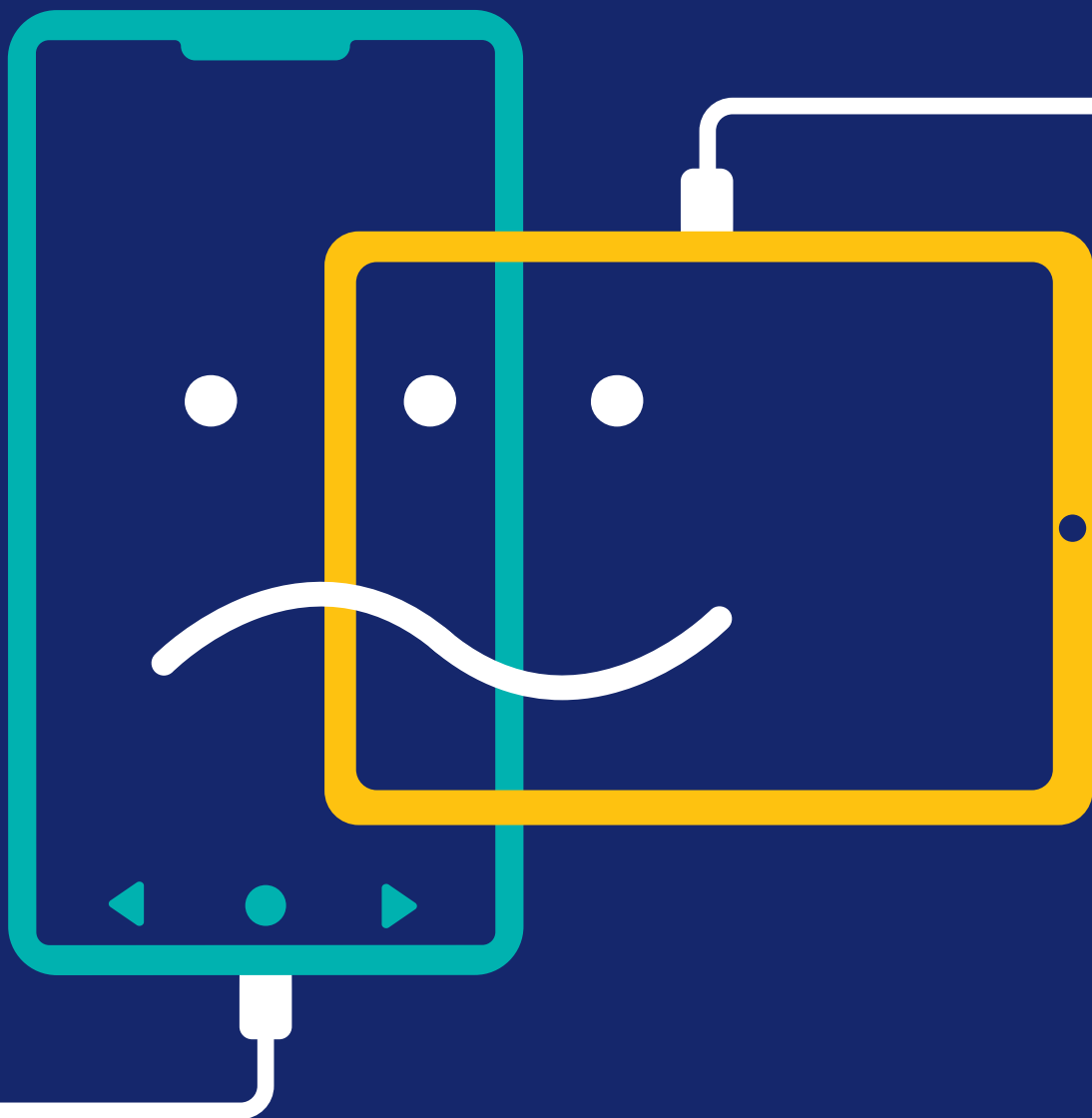


BUILDING A SAFER DIGITAL FUTURE



If you see it, report it

www.hotline.ie



CONTENT WARNING: Please be aware, the content enclosed in this publication relates to illegal content online, such as child sexual abuse and exploitation. Thus, some readers may find parts of this Annual Report uncomfortable or upsetting to read. The publication aims to raise awareness and inform. Whether you've been following these topical issues for years, or you are just beginning to learn more, this is an active conversation that requires consistent and ongoing attention and collaboration, together with long term strategic commitment from national Governments and the European Union.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of our members, supporters, partners or the European Union.

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An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
agus Comhionannais
Department of Justice
and Equality

BUILDING A SAFER DIGITAL FUTURE

A list of other Irish support services to help you in your search for information is available at www.hotline.ie

Report now

Visit our secure and confidential web-reporting portal

[hotline.ie/report](https://www.hotline.ie/report)

Learn more

Follow us on

x.com/Hotline_ie

Resource



For further online safety advice, tips, and resources checkout the Webwise Parents Hub or Webwise Teachers Hub

[webwise.ie](https://www.webwise.ie)

PODCAST EPISODE

 1 HR 35 MIN



Talking Bollox Podcast - Episode 209: "Mick Moran on Protecting Children Online"

Our Chief Executive, Mick Moran, sat down with the Talking Bollox hosts for a 95-minute conversation about the realities of online child sexual abuse material, the gaps in current policing, and why Hotline.ie's work keeps victims, rather than offenders, at the centre of every decision. The episode pulled no punches; listeners were challenged to rethink "lenient" sentences and to act responsibly if they ever encounter illegal imagery. If you want the unvarnished view from the man leading Ireland's national hotline, you can listen back to the discussion on all major podcast platforms.

Please scan the QR code opposite to access the podcast



THANK YOU

We want to take a moment to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported our work this past year.

To those who have made the decision to report content that concerned you, thank you. Your actions make a real difference in protecting vulnerable people, especially children. What might seem like a small step to you can prevent further harm and help someone you'll never meet. That matters enormously.

Our work wouldn't be possible without our partners who stand beside us every day – from An Garda Síochána, to our fellow hotlines around the world, our safer internet centre partners and to the many other organisations working tirelessly on these difficult issues. No single group could address these issues alone, and we're fortunate to work alongside such dedicated partners.

We're also deeply thankful to our members, the Department of Justice, and the European Commission, whose funding makes our daily operations possible. Your support allows us to keep our services running and to adapt as new challenges emerge.

The work we do isn't easy. The content our analysts review is often distressing, the challenges complex, and the stakes incredibly high. But knowing we have the support of so many, from individual reporters to institutional partners, makes all the difference.

Thank you for believing in what we do and for helping us create a world where everyone, especially the most vulnerable amongst us, can be safer.

**SINCERELY,
THE TEAM AT HOTLINE.IE**



SCAN

Please scan the QR
code to access our
digital annual report

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	2
WELCOME	4



ABOUT HOTLINE.IE 5-7

6	Journey of a report
7	What to report



STATISTICS & FINDINGS 8-11

9	Enhanced reporting framework
10	Statistics & findings



ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE & EXPLOITATION 12-24

13	Know the law & did you know?
14	CSAM Statistics & findings
15	CSAM reporting framework
16	Demographic analysis
17	Key insights
18	Self-generated CSAM
19	Services misused
20	Snapshot of CSAM hosting patterns
23	Expanding protection
24	The people behind Hotline.ie



INTIMATE IMAGE ABUSE 25-32

26	Know the Law & did you know?
27	What is intimate image abuse?
27	Words matter: call it for what it is
28	IIA statistics & findings
29	IIA key findings
30	Demographic analysis
32	Sexual extortion



FINANCIAL SCAMS 33-37

34	Know the law & did you know?
35	Financial scams statistics & findings
36	The surge in online shopping scams
37	Challenges in removing financial scams



RACISM & XENOPHOBIA 38-41

39	Know the law & did you know?
40	Racism & xenophobia statistics & findings
41	Understanding the legal threshold



PARTNERSHIPS 42-44

43	Working in partnership
44	Our members

45	Glossary of terms
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FOREWORD

Minister for Justice

2024 saw Hotline.ie continue its critical mission of safeguarding our digital landscape and providing a pathway for the public to securely, confidentially and anonymously report suspected illegal content online – particularly child sexual abuse material (CSAM).



Jim O'Callaghan, Minister for Justice

It also marked a significant milestone for the organisation – its 25th year working to combat the heinous crimes of online child sexual abuse and other types of abuse. I'm cognisant that this often-difficult work is done consistently, diligently and professionally, and in close partnership with key stakeholders including An Garda Síochána, and I'm grateful for it.

This Government is firmly committed to making online safety a priority in our increasingly digital world. While advances in technology have given rise to new and sophisticated methods of committing crimes online, we will not be found wanting in our responses – including our work with Hotline.ie – to adapt and enhance how we protect and support vulnerable victims.

Many of the findings in this annual report make for worrying and stark reading. It's easy to get overwhelmed by the figures, but crucial to recognise that behind these statistics are real people – and often children – who have suffered harm and have been victimised. Acknowledging that fact underscores the urgency and importance of our work in this space.

That work is increasing. Hotline.ie received a record number of 53,441 reports from the public of suspected illegal online content last year – a very significant 32% increase from 2023. Of these reports, some 85% were

found to relate to illegal material. While the increase in volume is undoubtedly a cause for serious concern, it is also encouraging that public engagement with this service continues to grow, reflecting increased awareness and vigilance across society.

Most of the reports to Hotline.ie last year – almost 45,000 – related to suspected child sexual abuse material. The team achieved a commendable 97% removal rate of confirmed illegal content, demonstrating effectiveness and timeliness of the Hotline.ie response. Indeed, I believe the volume of reports and the impressive efforts of Hotline.ie aptly highlight the persistent challenges posed by online child exploitation and the sustained efforts being made to combat this abuse.

As mentioned earlier, we must ensure we never become hardened to the reality of these figures, and me and my officials remain committed to tackling these crimes. For example, Ireland continues to actively engage in negotiations on a new EU law that will require online service providers to prevent the dissemination of child sexual abuse material and attempts to groom children on their platforms.

Significantly, the 2024 report also outlines that Ireland is among the jurisdictions with the lowest incidence of CSAM hosting globally, underscoring the effectiveness of our collaborative efforts to combat such heinous activity.

This Government is firmly committed to making online safety a priority in our increasingly digital world. While advances in technology have given rise to new and sophisticated methods of committing crimes online, we will not be found wanting in our responses – including our work with Hotline.ie – to adapt and enhance how we protect and support vulnerable victims.

I also want to acknowledge the results of the Hotline.ie pilot initiative focused on combatting Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM) – content which may not meet the legal threshold for CSAM. Content classed as CSEM raises serious ethical concerns regarding child dignity, privacy and wellbeing, and include images of children in sexualised contexts without explicit sexual activity, for example. This pilot secured a 94% removal rate on material reported, while also setting a high standard for protecting the rights and dignity of children online. I am pleased this will now transition into a permanent CSEM removal programme.

I also want to highlight other important areas under the remit of Hotline.ie. Last year saw a decline in the number of reports of intimate image abuse compared with 2023. This is an area we will need to monitor closely. While it is too early to draw definitive conclusions, this downward trend may suggest early positive impact from our awareness raising campaigns – ‘Chain of Shame’ in 2021 and 2022 and ‘Serious Consequences’ in 2023 and 2024 – aimed at deterring this form of abuse. Of the 241 reports involving confirmed sharing of intimate images, Hotline.ie secured a 93% removal rate for publicly accessible content which is encouraging.

I think people are also increasingly aware of online financial scams, and I note there was a 51% increase in confirmed financial scams targeting Irish residents last year, which led to the identification of 134 fraudulent websites. Some 79% of these were removed. Hotline.ie also continues to fight racism and xenophobia, receiving 908 reports of such incidences online in 2024. These increases in reports of scams and xenophobia again highlight how online crimes are becoming more frequent and diverse, and the need to maintain constant vigilance against these evolving threats.

I would like to thank the team at Hotline.ie for doing just that, and for their hard work and dedication. As Minister for Justice, I remain deeply committed to supporting this essential work and I look forward to our continued partnership in the years to come.

WELCOME

From the CEO

And so, the annual report rolls around again. On behalf of the Irish Internet Hotline, I commit our report for 2024 to you all.



Mick Moran, CEO of the Irish Internet Hotline

The 2024 report is a reminder that time waits on nobody and that the work we do is never ending. It contains numbers and figures that can be shocking or normal depending on how engaged you are in this space, but one thing is for sure; if we were not doing this work then none of these reports would have been actioned. We work to keep Irish hosting space free of illegal and harmful material and through our INHOPE partners we contribute to the international efforts.

The Irish Internet Hotline team have worked hard on what you can read in this report. Every report is analysed and what can be done, is done. They do it willingly and without stint. There is no let up for them, and every report they manage creates a wave of good out into the online world. A child is not revictimised, an intimate image does not go viral, a spew of xenophobia is removed from view, or another person does not fall into a phishing trap. All these things are good but practically impossible to measure and so they must have faith that their work makes a difference. I know the difference they are making and ask you to read this report and understand it too.

We work to keep Irish hosting space free of illegal and harmful material and through our INHOPE partners we contribute to the international efforts.

Their commitment is matched by that of our Members, the EU and the Minister for Justice who also take these matters seriously and fund us accordingly.

A special thank you must go to our board of directors. They give freely of their time to ensure we act in a compliant manner and are meeting the strategic direction set. This oversight is important, and they are appreciated. Confidence is high with the board and the team, and this trust is transmitted to our members and stakeholders.

Our partnerships also need special mention. An Garda Síochána, especially the Garda National Protective Services Bureau, give unwavering support and guidance while our presence in the consortium of the Safer Internet Centre in Ireland with Webwise, ISPCC and NPC is a privilege. This consortium recognises that we are complimentary to each other and stronger together. Expect to hear more from us in 2026.

2025 has been a year of change for us and we are actively actioning our strategic plan. We have changed our company name, we have moved offices, we have new team members, and we are ready to tackle some of the strategic objectives as set by our board.

We look forward to making a difference and making change for the rest of 2025 and on into 2026. With your support that is always easier.

ABOUT HOTLINE.IE

Hotline.ie is Ireland's leading expert in addressing illegal online content. As a not-for-profit organisation, we collaborate closely with An Garda Síochána, the Irish Government, technology companies, and NGOs to create a safer internet for everyone, especially children.

Established in 1999, Hotline.ie provides a secure, confidential portal for reporting illegal online material. Our mission remains victim-focused, emphasising the human impact behind every report. Independent from law enforcement and online platforms, our impartial approach ensures we effectively address illegal content across all internet services.

THE TEAM AT HOTLINE.IE WORKS RELENTLESSLY TO MAKE THE INTERNET A SAFER PLACE, ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN.

OUR COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Recognising that issues like online child sexual abuse cannot be tackled alone, Hotline.ie actively participates in national and international partnerships. Our operational procedures are approved by the Department of Justice, and we collaborate extensively with An Garda Síochána, INHOPE (the international network of hotlines), and the Irish Safer Internet Centre.

HOW WE'RE FUNDED

Our work is co-financed by the European Union through grant aid and by our members, which include technology companies, search providers, mobile operators, and internet service providers.

Our resources are limited, and we welcome support in various forms, whether by reporting suspected illegal content at hotline.ie/report, providing funding, or collaborating on innovative solutions.

Our dedicated team comprises specialists with extensive training and international certification, thoroughly assessing each report according to rigorous standards and Irish legislation. Understanding the lifelong consequences harmful content can have, our goal is to actively combat online abuse to build a safer digital future.

JOURNEY OF A REPORT



We assess every report against our mandate



Addressing illegal content like CSAM, Intimate Image Abuse, Financial Scams, Racism and Xenophobia



If you need help we offer advice and connect you to trusted Irish services - because no one should face this alone



If content breaks Irish Law



We alert An Garda Síochána and Interpol



And ensure its swift removal



We partner with INHOPE hotlines



And law enforcement worldwide to create a safer Internet for all, especially children

WHAT TO REPORT

WHY REPORTING MATTERS

When you report concerning content to Hotline.ie, you're using your voice to protect victims and prevent further harm. Your action can help stop the cycle of victimisation caused by illegal material online.

Your report will be handled confidentially by our team of trained professionals. We have the expertise and procedures to ensure illegal material is removed at source and that law enforcement is notified through the most effective channels.

Important Note: Hotline.ie handles reports of suspected illegal content encountered online. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, please contact An Garda Síochána directly.

We also encourage the public to report borderline cases that seem suspicious or harmful. For instance, if you see a questionable social media post involving children in sexualised poses or hateful slurs that could incite violence, please let us assess it. Even if content proves not to be illegal, your vigilance helps us track evolving trends and potential threats.

YOU CAN SECURELY, ANONYMOUSLY AND CONFIDENTIALLY REPORT TO HOTLINE.IE:

- **Child sexual abuse material**
including images, videos, text and computer-generated content
- **Child sexual exploitation**
activities such as grooming attempts
- **Intimate image abuse**
when intimate images or videos are shared without consent
- **Racism or xenophobia**
content that incites hatred based on race, ethnicity or nationality
- **Financial scams**
fraudulent websites or messages claiming to be Irish services, having Irish contact details or appearing to originate from Ireland

REPORTING TAKES JUST A MINUTE BUT CAN MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE

Visit our secure and confidential web-reporting portal:

hotline.ie/report

Report it

STATISTICS & FINDINGS



53,441

Total Reports Processed

A record-breaking year with a 32% increase in processed reports, demonstrating Hotline.ie's continued expertise and evolving capabilities in identifying, assessing, and addressing increasingly complex illegal online material.

ENHANCED REPORTING FRAMEWORK

For 2024, Hotline.ie has introduced a more comprehensive statistical framework that offers greater transparency into our operations and findings. This enhanced approach focuses particularly on two key areas:

DETAILED REPORT SOURCE ANALYSIS

We now provide clearer distinctions between direct public reports, analyst-derived reports, and internationally received reports through the ICCAM system. This granular breakdown gives stakeholders better visibility into how reports originate and the significant multiplier effect that occurs when our analysts identify additional content through investigation of initial reports.

REFINED CSAM WORKFLOW CATEGORISATION

Our statistics now more precisely delineate between the two primary CSAM workflows, Actioned CSAM Reports and Monitored Global CSAM Reports, offering greater insight into the distinct handling processes and outcomes for different types of reports.

These refinements align with international efforts to standardise reporting on child sexual abuse material, facilitating more meaningful cross-border comparison and more effective resource allocation. By presenting our data with these enhanced breakdowns, we contribute to a more nuanced global understanding of CSAM distribution patterns while providing the transparency that partners and the public increasingly expect.

The data in this report covers the period from 1st January to 31st December 2024. All figures and insights are based on reports submitted by the public to Hotline.ie. Under our operational procedures, approved by the Department of Justice and An Garda Síochána, we do not proactively search for child sexual abuse material (CSAM) on the internet. However, when we receive a public report suggesting further illegal content linked from the reported site, we investigate these connections. When additional illegal content is discovered through this process, we create derived reports and take appropriate action.

It's important to note that behind every statistic in this report are real people affected by illegal online content. Our work aims not only to remove this material but to reduce the harm it causes to victims, their families, and society as a whole.



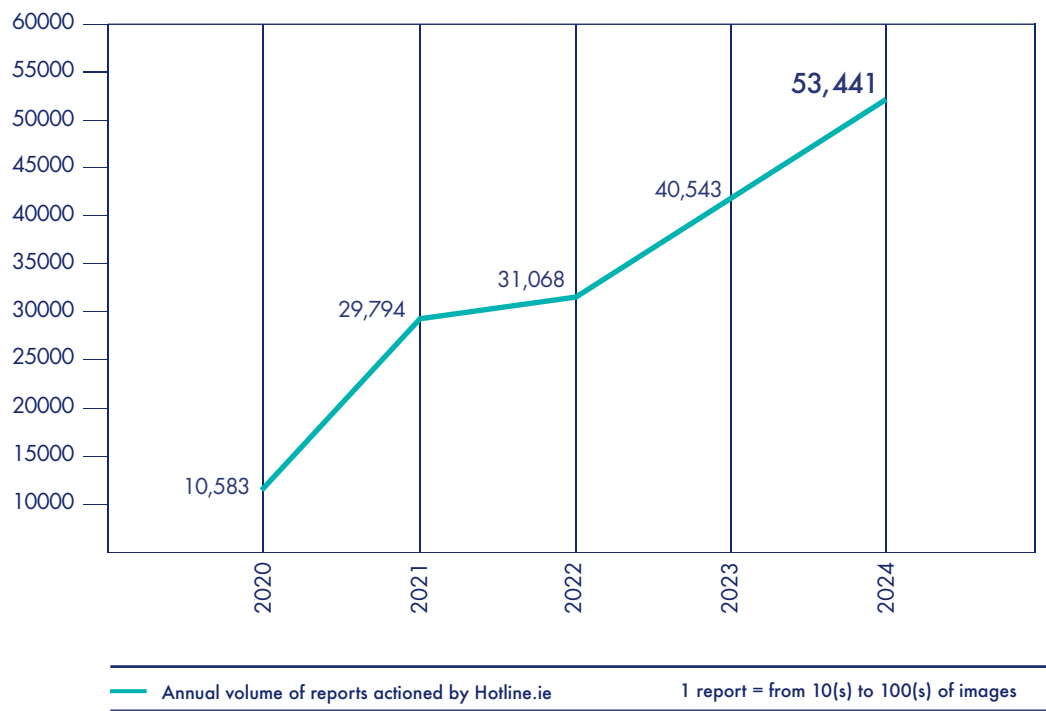
**Behind
every
statistic
are real
people**

STATISTICS & FINDINGS

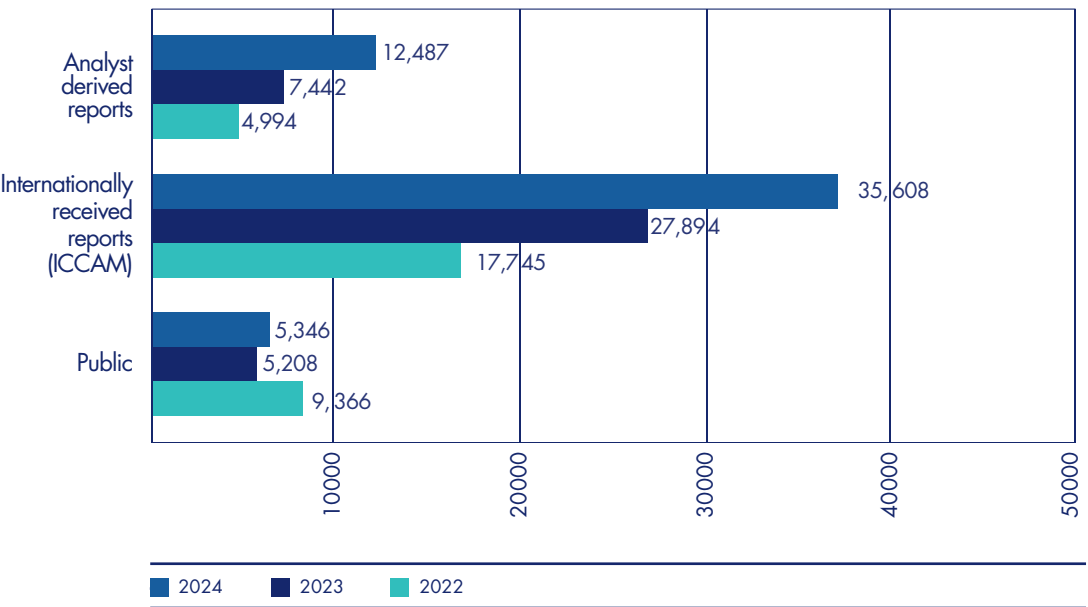
TOTAL OVERVIEW

There were 53,441 reports made to Hotline.ie in 2024, representing another record-breaking year with a 32% increase from 2023. This continues the trend of increasing reports seen over recent years.

2024 ANNUAL VOLUME OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY HOTLINE.IE



REPORT SOURCES IN 2024



Direct public reports have remained relatively stable from 2023 to 2024, increasing slightly from 5,208 to 5,346. However, their accuracy has improved significantly. Approximately one-third of public reports are now assessed as potentially illegal, compared to just one in ten in previous years. This improvement has allowed analysts to derive more actionable reports, increasing from 7,442 in 2023 to 12,487 in 2024.

At the same time, internationally confirmed reports through the INHOPE network, via the ICCAM system, have grown substantially, rising from 27,894 to 35,608. This demonstrates the critical importance of international cooperation in identifying and removing illegal online content.

In total, Hotline.ie analysts classified 45,639 reports as relating to illegal material, which represents 85% of all reports received. This is a significant increase from 72% in 2023. The rise reflects both the improved quality of direct public reports and the increasing impact of internationally sourced reports.

This multi-source approach shows how a single public report can lead to the identification of entire networks of illegal activity and enable multiple takedowns across different jurisdictions.

53,441 TOTAL 2024 REPORTS

5,346 Direct public reports	12,487 Analyst Derived reports	35,608 Internationally received reports
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REPORTS BY REPORTING CHANNEL

ADULT PORNOGRAPHY	1,107	CONTENT ALREADY REMOVED	365
EXTREME ADULT CONTENT	80	INSUFFICIENT DETAIL	191
AGE INAPPROPRIATE CHILD POSING (CHILD NUDITY & CE)	2,892	OUTSIDE HOTLINE.IE REMIT	329
OTHER NOT-ILLEGAL	1,776	OTHER (NOT FOUND & NOT ACCESSIBLE)	967
QUERY	95		
NON-ILLEGAL TOTAL: 5,950			
MONITORED GLOBAL CSAM REPORTS	28,231		
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL	16,724		
CHILD GROOMING	24		
INTIMATE IMAGE ABUSE	519		
RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA	7		
FINANCIAL SCAM	134		
ILLEGAL TOTAL: 45,639			

REPORTS BY HOTLINE.IE CLASSIFICATION

NOTE: Reports classified as insufficient detail, outside Hotline.ie remit, not accessible, and not found are termed “non-actionable reports” because our analysts cannot identify, access, or confirm the content. The “outside Hotline.ie remit” classification covers issues like copyright infringement or sale of drugs. “Content already removed” is used when a webpage shows that the content has been deleted, and our analysts cannot verify its legality under Irish law.

ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE & EXPLOITATION



50,503

Suspected CSAM Reports

Of which 44,955 were assessed as related to child sexual abuse material, referred to law enforcement and actioned for removal by Hotline.ie 99.6% of assessed CSAM removed at source.

ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE & EXPLOITATION

Know the Law



CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND MATERIAL IS ILLEGAL



under the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998, as amended by the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017

THE LEGAL TERM "CHILD PORNOGRAPHY"



is defined as any visual representation that shows a person who is or is depicted as being a child and who is engaged in or is depicted as being engaged in real or simulated sexually explicit activity

ONLINE GROOMING AND TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



are covered under various offences in the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017

Did you know?



IT IS AN OFFENCE



to knowingly produce, distribute, disseminate, print, publish, import, export, advertise, sell, supply, or make available child sexual abuse material

IT IS ILLEGAL



to expose a child to sexually explicit acts or to pornography

IT IS A CRIME



to engage in any sexual acts with a child under the age of 17

IT IS A CRIME



to send sexually explicit images, videos or messages to a child under the age of 17



CSAM STATISTICS & FINDINGS

RECORD GROWTH IN CSAM REPORTS

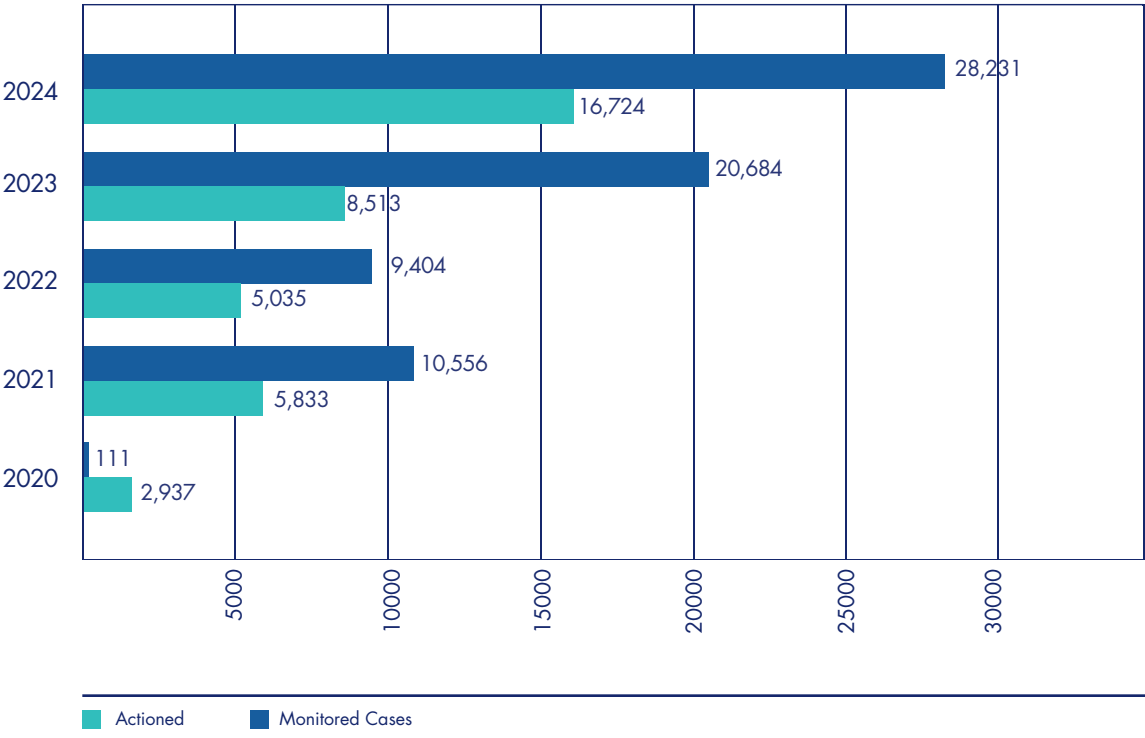
In 2024, Hotline.ie processed 44,955 reports of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), representing a substantial 55% increase from the 29,197 reports handled in 2023. This continued growth reflects both the persistent challenge of online child exploitation and Hotline.ie’s enhanced capacity to identify and address this material.

The 44,955 CSAM reports in 2024 were processed through two distinct workflows:

- 16,724 Actioned CSAM Reports (96% increase from 2023)
- 28,231 Monitored Global CSAM Reports (36% increase from 2023)

This division reflects our enhanced operational capabilities, with our dedicated analysts directly investigating and actioning an increased volume of reports while simultaneously contributing to the global monitoring efforts through the INHOPE network. The substantial growth in actioned reports demonstrates our improved capacity to process and respond to a higher volume of CSAM, resulting in more content being removed and referred to appropriate authorities.

ACTIONED VS MONITORED CASES



CSAM REPORTING FRAMEWORK

International Collaboration and Report Types

- **Actioned CSAM Reports:** These are confirmed cases of child sexual abuse material reported to Hotline.ie. These reports are reviewed and assessed by Hotline.ie analysts, actioned for removal, and forwarded to An Garda Síochána for further investigation.
- **Monitored Global CSAM Reports:** These refer to internationally confirmed CSAM cases accessed via the ICCAM system. Hotline.ie analysts verify the accessibility of the CSAM and monitor its status. These reports typically involve content hosted outside the INHOPE network. Hotline.ie is one of only four hotlines globally with the capability to monitor these reports. While largely processed through automation, they require analyst verification and oversight.

The significant growth in our CSAM reports processing capacity in 2024 is largely attributable to our integration with the ICCAM system. Of the 44,955 CSAM reports handled, 28,231 were classified as Monitored Global CSAM Reports, which primarily originate from the ICCAM

platform as internationally confirmed reports. These reports, validated by other INHOPE member hotlines worldwide, are shared through this secure system for global monitoring and takedown coordination. As one of only four hotlines globally with the capability to monitor these reports, Hotline.ie plays a crucial role in verifying their accessibility and tracking removal status, especially for content hosted outside the INHOPE network. This international collaboration dramatically expands our reach and impact beyond what could be achieved through direct public reports alone.

Hotline.ie continues to work with over 50 other hotlines globally as part of the INHOPE network to seek the removal of CSAM hosted both in Ireland and internationally. Despite differences in legal frameworks across jurisdictions that can present challenges to removal efforts, Hotline.ie maintains an exceptionally high removal rate.

CONTENT TYPES:

Analysis of content formats reveals important patterns:

90.3%

IMAGES

REMAIN THE PREDOMINANT FORMAT, REPRESENTING 90.3% OF CLASSIFIED CONTENT

9.4%

VIDEOS

CONSTITUTE 9.4% OF REPORTS, WITH A NOTABLY HIGHER PROPORTION IN

0.3%

TEXT-BASED CSAM

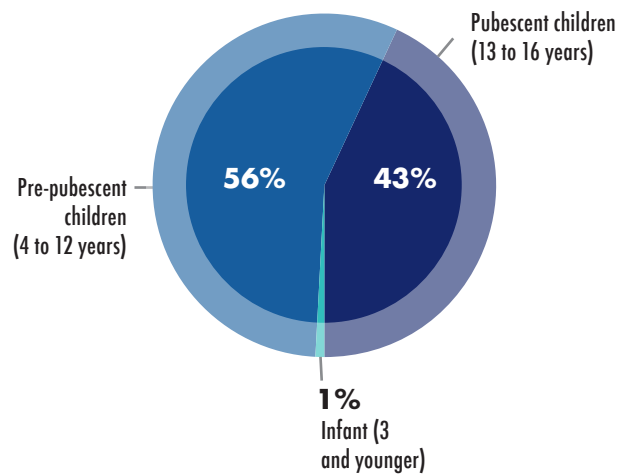
ACCOUNTS FOR 0.3% OF IDENTIFIED CONTENT, A SMALL BUT CONCERNING PORTION

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Our data reveals critical insights about the children depicted in CSAM.

AGE BREAKDOWN

This demographic data represents 20,647 reports where age could be clearly determined. In many cases, particularly within monitored global reports, multiple age categories may be represented within a single report, or age determination may not be possible from the available information.



GENDER BREAKDOWN

Our analysis also reveals significant gender disparities in CSAM reports: This consistent overrepresentation of female victims highlights gender-specific vulnerabilities that require targeted protection strategies.



5%

Boys



92%

Girls



3%

Both (Boys & Girls)

KEY INSIGHTS

The surge in pre-teen and teen victimisation correlates directly with the rise in forum-based distribution and self-generated content. Forum sites explicitly designed to aggregate material from these age groups have driven significant year-over-year increases.

- 1 Scale overwhelms traditional responses:** With nearly 44,955 CSAM reports in 2024, the volume of illegal content challenges conventional removal approaches, demonstrating how exploitation has scaled beyond reactive measures.
- 2 Self-generated content crisis:** The 166% growth in self-generated material (from 4,322 to 11,505 reports) represents a fundamental shift requiring targeted prevention and education.
- 3 Content patterns reveal exploitation tactics:** Lower severity content dominates reports, reflecting the nature of self-generated material that, while less explicit, remains deeply harmful.
- 4 Breaking the cycle requires prevention:** With forums now representing 63.5% of all CSAM reports, we're seeing exploitation content organised and monetised at unprecedented scale. To truly protect children, we need approaches that stop this content before it circulates and causes repeated harm through continued viewing and sharing. Early intervention prevents not only the initial creation of exploitative material but also the devastating ongoing impact of its circulation.

These findings underscore the dynamic nature of online child exploitation and the need for constantly evolving approaches to detection, removal, and prevention. As perpetrators adapt their methods, Hotline.ie continues to enhance its technical capabilities and analytical processes to meet these emerging challenges.

The unprecedented volume of CSAM reports processed in 2024 reflects not only the persistent threat of online exploitation but also Hotline.ie's expanded capacity to identify and address this harmful content, ultimately contributing to a safer online environment for children.

44,955

CSAM REPORTS IN 2024

63.5%

OF ALL CSAM REPORTS ARE
REPRESENTED BY FORUMS

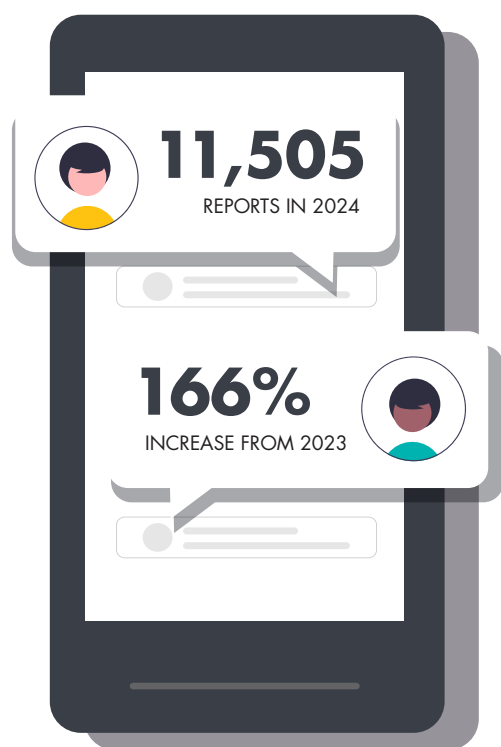
166%

GROWTH IN
SELF-GENERATED MATERIAL

SELF-GENERATED CSAM

The Forum Challenge

Self-generated CSAM has become the dominant form of child sexual abuse material identified by Hotline.ie in 2024, representing a continued shift in the online exploitation landscape since 2021. The statistics are alarming: 11,505 reports involving self-generated content were identified in 2024, representing a 166% increase from the previous year's 4,322 reports. This unprecedented growth correlates directly with the surge in forum-based distribution.



FORUM DISTRIBUTION AND RESILIENCE

Our analysis reveals that forums have become the primary vehicle for distributing self-generated CSAM, creating dedicated spaces specifically designed to aggregate and share this material. These platforms present unique challenges for content removal:

- **Persistent infrastructure:** The forum structure typically remains intact even when individual content is removed
- **Rapid restoration:** Removed content frequently reappears in the original location after a short period
- **Monetisation schemes:** Many forums use previews or screenshots to promote material that is then sold through private payment channels
- **Cross-platform tactics:** Content is strategically distributed across multiple services to complicate tracking and removal efforts

Important note:

The term “self-generated CSAM” only indicates that an analyst has identified the material as most likely being created by the child. It never apports blame to the child who has been sexually exploited.

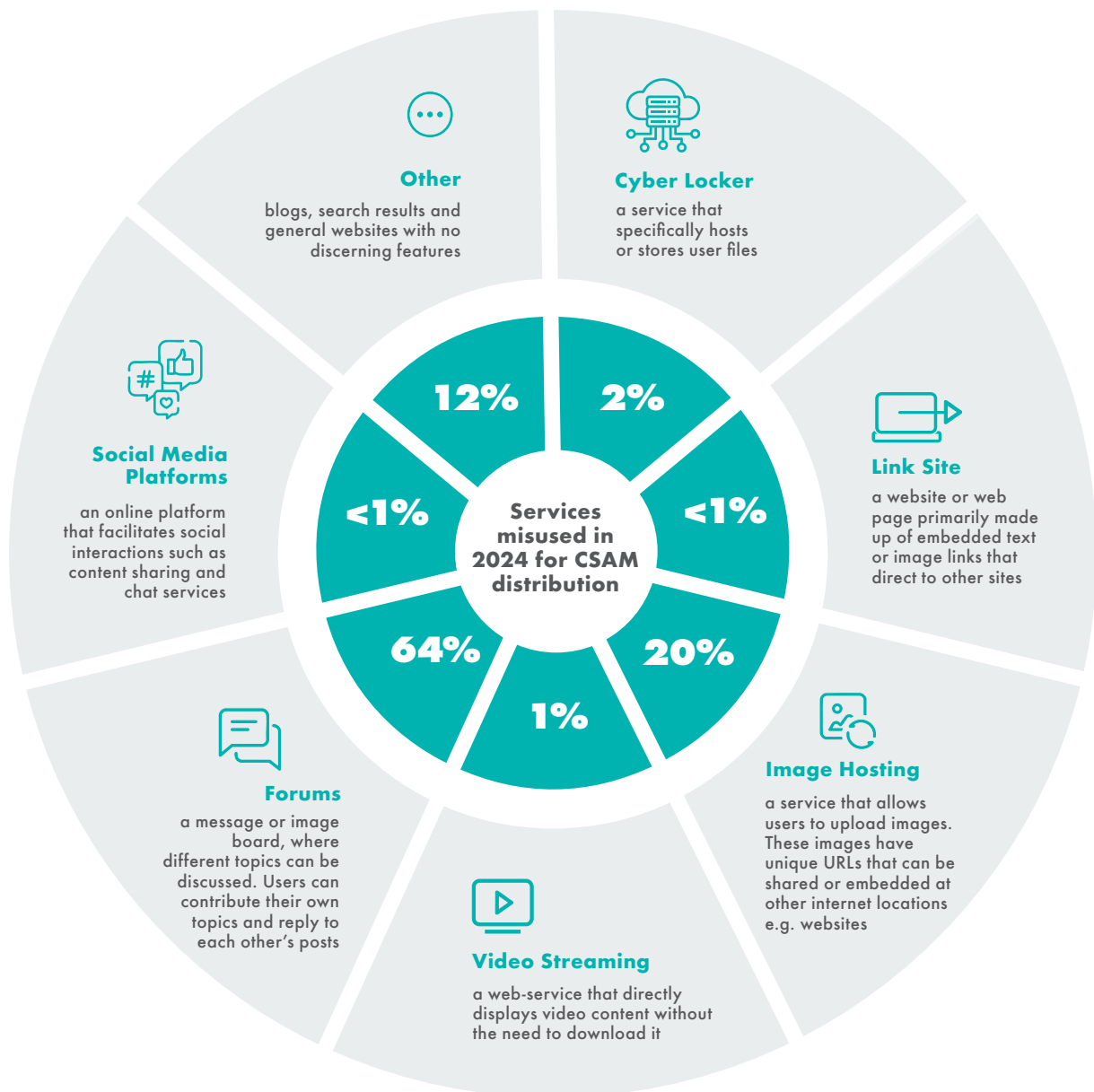
SERVICES MISUSED

for CSAM Distribution

PLATFORM DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

Our comprehensive analysis of CSAM reports in 2024 revealed clear patterns in how various online platforms are exploited for the distribution of illegal content, as illustrated below. This distribution pattern highlights a significant

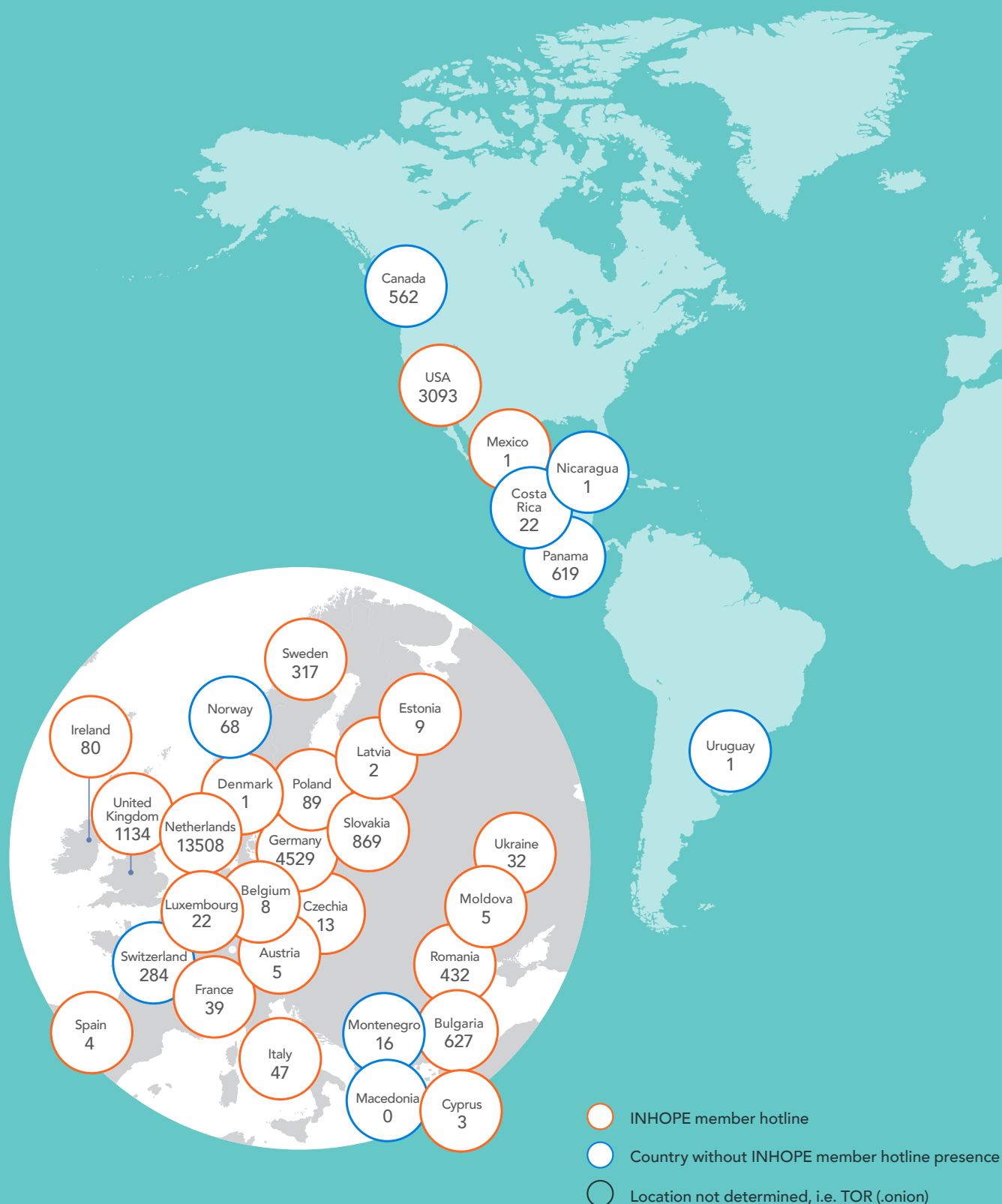
shift towards dedicated forums as primary vehicles for CSAM sharing, representing a substantial change from previous years where image hosting services played a more dominant role.



Disclaimer:

The figures above show the resources misused to share CSAM based on Hotline.ie's public reports, as such they do not represent the full scope of CSAM distribution on the Internet.

SNAPSHOT OF CSAM HOSTING PATTERNS





44,955

TOTAL REPORTS

322

LOCATION NOT DETERMINED
(TOR NETWORK)

58

COUNTRIES COVERED

45.86%

OF ALL CSAM WAS HOSTED IN EU

SNAPSHOT OF CSAM HOSTING PATTERNS

HOSTING INSIGHTS 2024

The 2024 data on illegal content hosting reveals critical patterns in how harmful material is distributed globally. Our monitoring has identified illegal content hosted across numerous countries, with certain jurisdictions showing particularly high concentrations.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION IN 2024

The Netherlands emerged as the primary hosting location with 13,508 instances of illegal content identified, followed by Hong Kong (7,012), Germany (4,529), and Vietnam (4,053). The United States (3,093) and Malaysia (2,832) also ranked among the top hosting locations.

A certain portion of the material, 322 domains, could not be definitively traced to specific jurisdictions, primarily due to hosting on the dark web or through anonymization services like TOR.

INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE

The 2024 data reinforces that online exploitation remains a global challenge requiring coordinated international responses. While content may be created in one jurisdiction, it is often hosted in entirely different countries, highlighting the cross-border nature of these crimes.

This distribution pattern underscores the vital importance of international cooperation mechanisms like the INHOPE network. Through such partnerships, Hotline.ie has helped ensure that 99.6% of all CSAM reported to it has been removed worldwide, regardless of where it is hosted, while facilitating the necessary law enforcement actions to identify and protect victims.

IRELAND'S HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT FOR ILLEGAL CONTENT HOSTING

In stark contrast to these figures, Ireland remained among the jurisdictions with the lowest incidence of illegal content hosting, with only 11 instances confirmed throughout 2024. This remarkably low figure places Ireland among the least exploited jurisdictions globally for hosting illegal material, highlighting the effectiveness of our national approach to creating a hostile environment for those attempting to host such content.

Ireland maintains this hostile environment through:

- **Rapid response protocols**
When illegal content is identified on Irish servers, the average removal time remains under 24 hours from the moment Hotline.ie receives a report
- **Strong industry cooperation**
Irish hosting providers and ISPs demonstrate exceptional commitment to swift action on removal notifications
- **Clear legal framework**
Ireland's comprehensive legislation provides a strong foundation for enforcement actions
- **Established relationships**
Close working relationships between Hotline.ie, service providers, and An Garda Síochána ensure seamless coordination in addressing illegal content

The success of Ireland's approach serves as a model for other jurisdictions seeking to combat illegal content hosting effectively. By combining legal frameworks, industry engagement, and dedicated resources, countries can significantly reduce their attractiveness as hosting locations for illegal material.



EXPANDING PROTECTION

CSEM Notice and Takedown Pilot Study

Hotline.ie's 2024 pilot study tested extending takedown procedures to Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM) - content that raises ethical concerns regarding children's dignity but falls below the legal threshold for illegality.

KEY DISTINCTIONS

- **CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material):** Legally prohibited content showing children in explicit sexual contexts
- **CSEM (Child Sexual Exploitation Material):** Content in a grey area including sexualised poses without explicit activity, non-sexual nudity in sexualised contexts, and commercial exploitation

NOTABLE RESULTS



941

TAKEDOWN
NOTICES ISSUED



885

SUCCESSFUL REMOVALS



94%

COMPLIANCE RATE DESPITE
NO LEGAL OBLIGATION



MOST CONTENT FOUND ON

60.9%

FORUM SITES

27.1%

IMAGE SITES



MAJORITY OF REMOVALS OCCURRED

WITHIN **72** HRS

METHODOLOGY

The study utilised established CSAM assessment expertise, international standards like the Luxembourg Guidelines, and contextual evaluation factors.

IMPACT

The high level of voluntary compliance shows that hosting services increasingly recognise their ethical responsibility to protect children online. Building on this success, Hotline.ie is making this collaborative approach permanent by enhancing training and refining how we monitor emerging patterns in online threats.

THE PEOPLE BEHIND HOTLINE.IE

WHEN PEOPLE LEARN WHAT WE DO, THEY OFTEN ASK: "HOW DO YOU COPE WITH VIEWING SUCH DIFFICULT CONTENT? DOESN'T IT AFFECT YOU?"

"Yes, some content is difficult to process - we wouldn't be human if it wasn't. But what many don't consider is the impact we make. Each time harmful material is removed, we're preventing further harm and potentially helping someone move forward with their life."

Hotline.ie Senior Analyst

"What keeps me grounded is seeing tangible results. Any website we take down could be several thousands of images removed, that represents real protection for vulnerable individuals."

Hotline.ie Team Member

"The misconception I encounter most, is that we must dread coming to work each day. But I've found purpose here that I hadn't found in previous roles. We have normal lives, normal conversations, and go home at the end of the day knowing we've made a difference."

Hotline.ie Senior Analyst



At Hotline.ie, our team comprises individuals from diverse backgrounds united by a common mission: making the internet safer. While our work involves reviewing challenging content, there's a genuine sense of purpose that sustains us.

BEYOND THE WORK

Our office environment looks like any other, with a professional focus and genuine team-first atmosphere. Before starting work, you'll find team members chatting over coffee, discussing current events, or simply catching up with one another. These everyday interactions form the foundation of our supportive culture.

"What keeps us working here is that we recognise the seriousness of our mission while maintaining perspective. We understand the importance of what we do and the severity of the content we see, but we also value supporting each other and ensuring people can be themselves." Hotline.ie Content Analyst

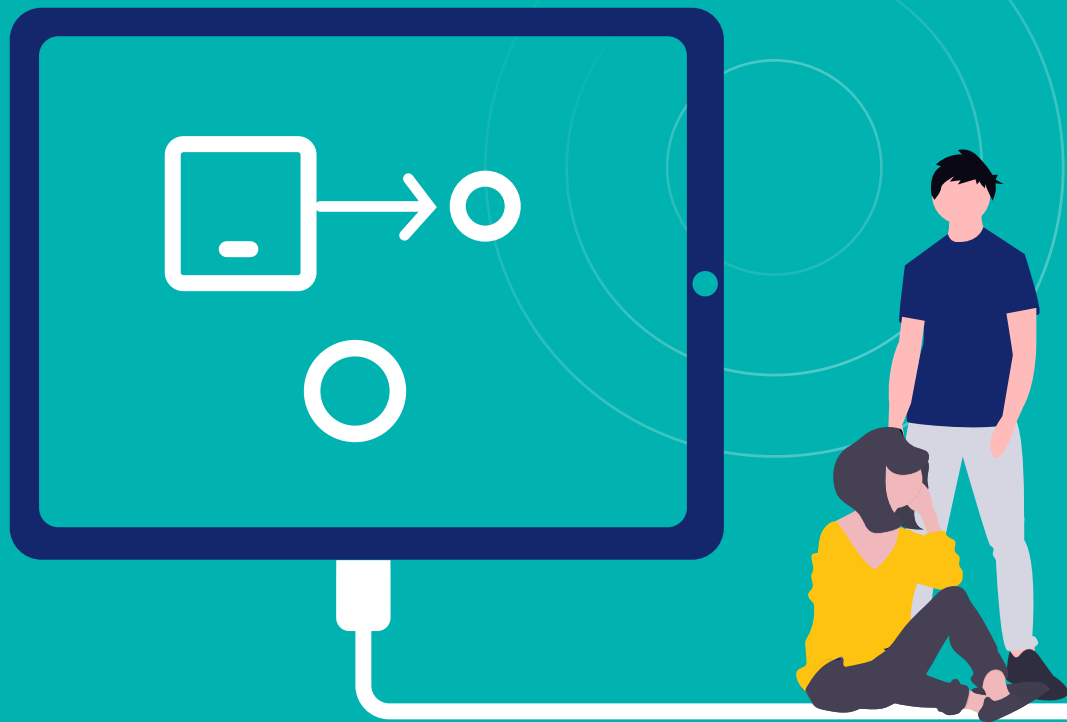
WORKPLACE SUPPORT

Hotline.ie provides structured support that complements this team dynamic:

- Regular social activities that strengthen team connections
- Flexible working arrangements that respect work-life balance
- Professional development for both technical skills and personal resilience
- Wellness resources integrated into our professional environment
- Regular check-ins that ensure everyone has the support they need

This approach allows our team to make a significant difference in online safety while being part of a workplace that values both their professional contributions and personal wellbeing.

INTIMATE IMAGE ABUSE



93%

Successful cross-border removal rate

39% of reports of intimate image abuse in
2024 were of sexual extortion scams

INTIMATE IMAGE ABUSE

Know the Law



THE NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING OF INTIMATE IMAGES OR VIDEOS (INTIMATE IMAGE ABUSE)



Is an offence under the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020, also known as Coco's Law

IF AN INTIMATE IMAGE INVOLVES A PERSON UNDER 18, IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, IT COULD CONSTITUTE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL.



This would be an offence under the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998 as amended by the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017

Did you know?



IT IS AN ILLEGAL



to take or share an intimate image of someone without their consent

EVEN IF SOMEONE GAVE CONSENT



for an image to be taken, it's still an offence if it's later shared without their consent

DIGITALLY ALTERED IMAGES



Digitally altered images, such as a person's face edited onto another's body, can be classified as intimate image abuse

"UPSKIRTING" OR "DOWNBLOUSING"



taking photographs without consent from below someone's skirt or down their blouse – is an offence under Coco's Law

WHAT IS INTIMATE IMAGE ABUSE?

The Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 (Coco's Law) defines an intimate image in relation to a person as any visual representation made by any means, including any photographic, film, video, or digital representation.

Intimate image abuse occurs when such images are shared without the person's consent. This can take various forms, including:

- A person sharing an intimate image of you on social media without your permission
- Someone digitally altering your image with sexually explicit content and sharing it without consent
- Your intimate image or video being posted on an adult website without your knowledge or agreement

Consent means giving clear, voluntary and informed permission. A person should always have the freedom to say no or change their mind in any situation. Before Coco's Law came into force in February 2021, sharing intimate images without consent wasn't specifically prohibited by law.

WORDS MATTER: CALL IT WHAT IT IS

We strongly discourage using the term "revenge porn" as it misrepresents the nature of this abuse. This misleading terminology:

- Implies the victim deserves "revenge" when no one deserves to experience this form of abuse
- Suggests only former partners share such content, when perpetrators might be hackers, acquaintances, or strangers
- Likens the abuse to legal adult pornography, which involves expressed, voluntary consent

Anyone can experience intimate image abuse. It's more common than many people realise and affects individuals regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or background.

If this happens to you, remember it's not your fault. You are not alone, and support services are available to help you through this experience.

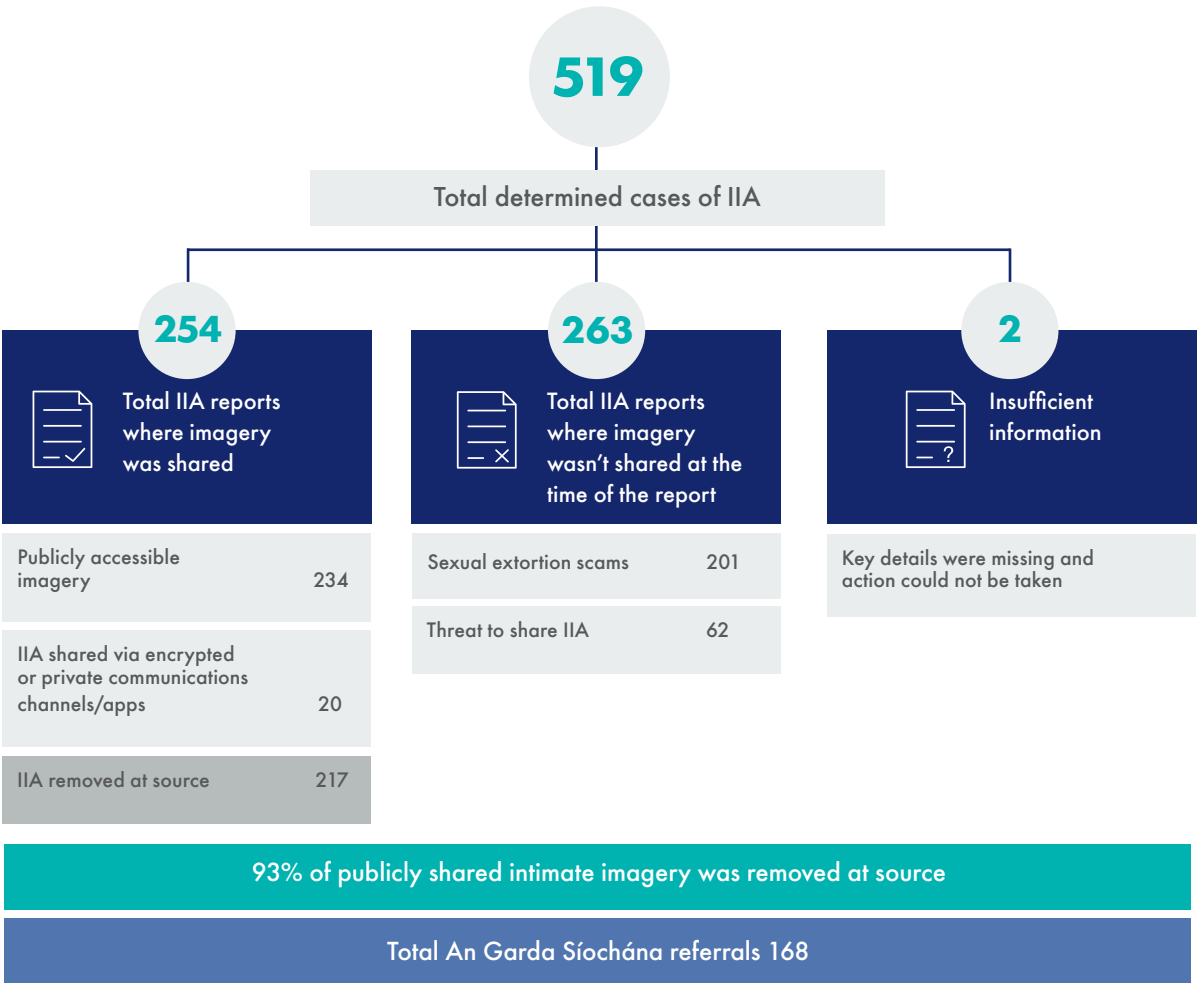
IIA STATISTICS & FINDINGS

Intimate Image Abuse (IIA) encompasses a range of harmful activities involving personal intimate imagery. The following breakdown illustrates the full spectrum of cases handled by Hotline.ie in 2024, revealing both the scale of the issue and the diversity of scenarios we encounter.

Our data divides into two primary categories: cases where intimate images had already been shared without consent (46% of reports) and cases involving threats to share such imagery (55% of reports). This distinction is crucial, as each scenario requires different intervention approaches and support mechanisms.

The infographic below provides a comprehensive overview of all 519 IIA reports received in 2024, their classification, the actions taken, and the outcomes achieved. This data forms the foundation for our targeted response strategies and enables us to better protect those affected by this form of abuse.

BREAKDOWN OF REPORTS



*a report can receive multiple actions predicated on the outcome sought by the reporter and/or specific context e.g. removal, referral to AGS and signposting to other support services available in Ireland

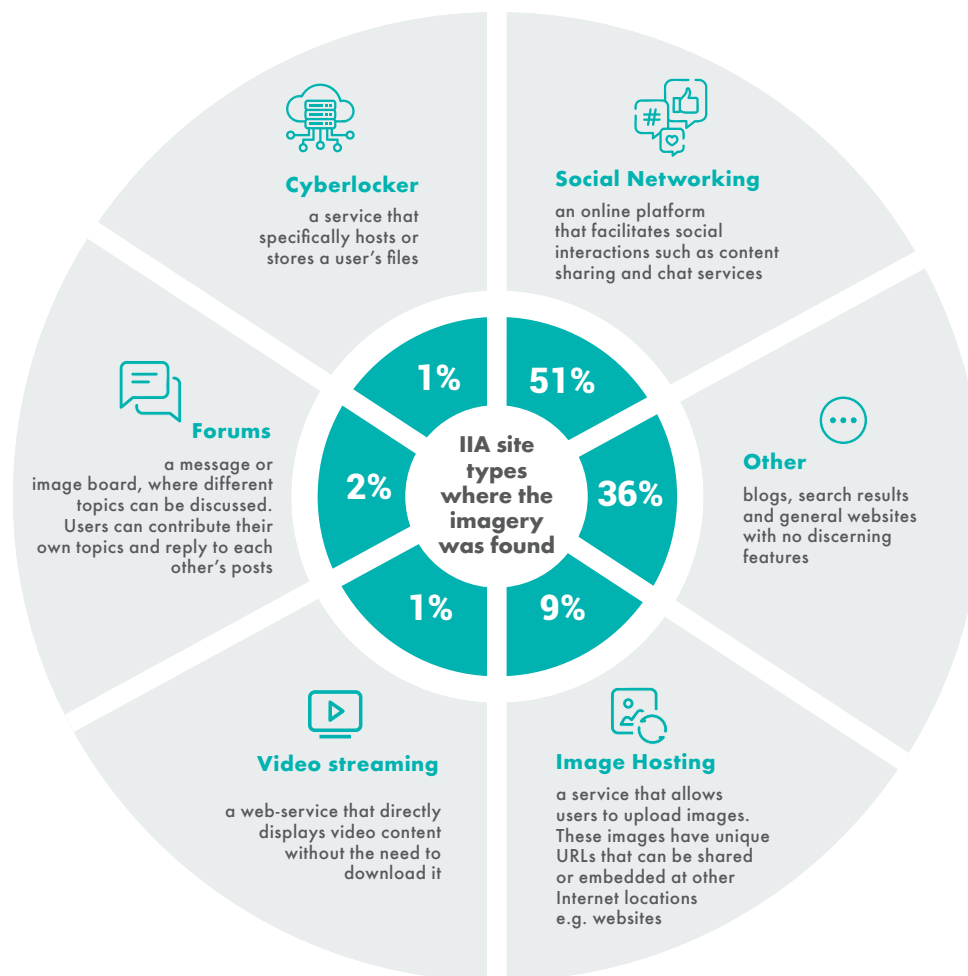
IIA KEY FINDINGS

Hotline.ie achieved a 93% removal rate (217 out of 234), demonstrating the effectiveness of our notice and takedown procedures. Additionally, 161 cases were referred to An Garda Síochána at the reporter's request.

OVERVIEW: WHEN IMAGES ARE SHARED

Of the total IIA reports, 254 reports involving confirmed sharing of intimate images:

- 92% (234 cases) involved publicly accessible content
- 8% (20 cases) involved sharing through encrypted or private communication channels



PLATFORM DISTRIBUTION

Our analysis revealed diverse distribution channels for intimate image abuse:

- 36% of cases occurred on various websites other than social media or forums
- 51% took place on social networking platforms
- 9% involved image hosting sites

- >2% were found on forums
- The remaining cases were distributed across video streaming services, cyberlockers, and other platforms

This distribution highlights how perpetrators utilise a wide range of online services to share intimate content without consent, with particular concentration on websites that may have less robust content moderation than major social platforms.

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

GENDER BREAKDOWN

When intimate images are shared without consent, our data shows a clear gender disparity:



40%

Male



59%

Female



<1%

Gender diverse

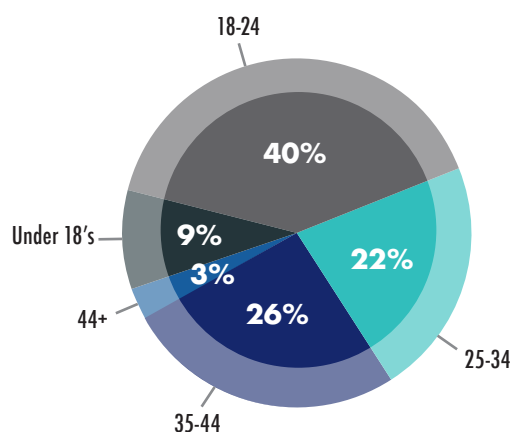


<1%

Prefer not to say

AGE BREAKDOWN

Age distribution showed that while adults across age ranges are affected, certain groups face heightened vulnerability:



THREATS TO SHARE WITHOUT EXTORTION

In addition to cases where images were already shared, Hotline.ie received 62 reports involving threats to share intimate images without an extortion component. These cases typically involve:

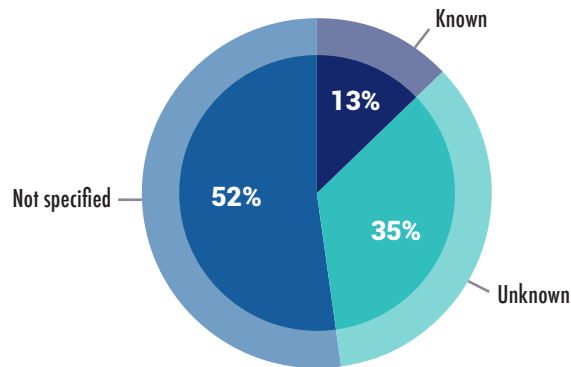
- Current or former intimate partners
- Acquaintances or people known to the victim

Of these cases, 29 were referred to An Garda Síochána at the reporter's request. These threats create significant psychological distress for victims, even when images have not yet been shared publicly.

Unlike sexual extortion (addressed separately in this report), these threats typically come from someone known to the victim and often arise in the context of relationship breakdowns or interpersonal conflicts.

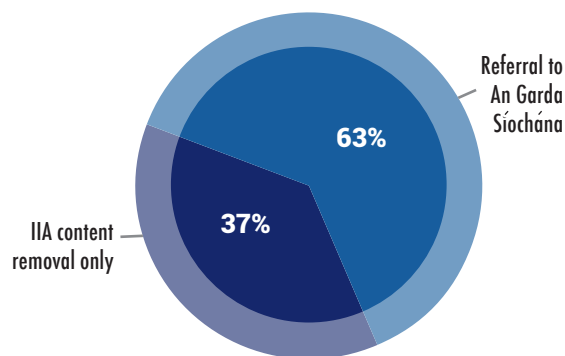
PERPETRATOR RELATIONSHIP

Across both shared images and threats to share:



OUTCOMES SOUGHT

When reporting to Hotline.ie, victims primarily sought two types of intervention:



EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION

Our approach to intimate image abuse focuses on two primary interventions:

- 1 Rapid removal of content that has been shared without consent
- 2 Support for those seeking legal remedies through An Garda Síochána

The substantial proportion of cases where victims knew the perpetrator points to the importance of awareness campaigns addressing non-consensual sharing within relationships and social circles. This is particularly relevant for threats to share, which often occur in domestic contexts and require different intervention approaches than those used for sexual extortion cases.

SEXUAL EXTORTION

Sexual extortion continued to be a significant concern in our 2024 data. Hotline.ie received 201 reports of sexual extortion, with 62 cases forwarded to An Garda Síochána at the reporter's request. The vast majority (77%) of these incidents involved social networking platforms, confirming these as the primary environments where such exploitation takes place.

DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERNS

Our data revealed a striking gender disparity: 83% of reports came from male victims, with young men aged 18-24 being particularly vulnerable. This age group accounted for approximately three-quarters of all reported cases, suggesting targeted approaches by perpetrators toward this demographic. Concerningly, our data shows that 15% of sexual extortion victims were under 18 years of age, indicating that perpetrators are targeting children who may be particularly vulnerable to manipulation and less equipped to handle such threats.

HOW THESE OPERATE

Sexual extortion typically followed a consistent pattern across platforms:

- Initial contact through social media or dating platforms
- Rapid development of rapport followed by sexually-oriented conversations
- Acquisition of intimate content, followed by financial demands and threats. Occasionally they can also include demands for more images
- Evidence of organised criminal activity, often operating from jurisdictions with limited cybercrime regulations

The dominance of social networking platforms in these cases points to their effectiveness for scammers in building trust, moving to private communications, and gathering information about victims' social connections to make more credible threats.

RESPONSE EFFECTIVENESS

For sexual extortion cases where intimate images had not yet been shared:

- Providing support and practical guidance to victims was critical
- Advising against payment often proved effective, as scammers typically moved on to other targets when ignored
- Getting social media accounts taken down can be an issue if extortion evidence is hidden within private messages

The significant targeting of young males in these cases highlights the need for tailored awareness campaigns directed at this demographic, particularly on platforms where initial contact typically occurs.

PLATFORMS COMMONLY USED

While sexual extortion can happen on any platform with messaging capabilities, Hotline.ie has received reports involving Tinder, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, Ome.tv, Reddit and Kik. Most cases involve contact across multiple platforms. Notably, gaming platforms have also become spaces where perpetrators initiate contact, often using in-game chat or social features to build trust with younger users.

FINANCIAL SCAMS



134

Websites

attempting to scam Irish residents removed with a 79% removal rate. Hotline.ie has seen a 4% increase in reports of suspected financial scams in 2024 with a 51% increase in determined financial scams targeting Irish Residents.

FINANCIAL SCAMS

Know the Law



FINANCIAL SCAMS ARE PRIMARYLY ADDRESSED UNDER THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE (THEFT AND FRAUD OFFENCES) ACT 2001



which covers various forms of fraud, including those conducted online.

“Under the Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) Act 2001 (2001 Act) a person who dishonestly, with the intention of making a gain for himself or herself or another, or of causing loss to another, by any deception induces another to do or refrain from doing an act is guilty of an offence”

FINANCIAL SERVICE SCAMS MAY ALSO FALL UNDER REGULATIONS ENFORCED BY THE CENTRAL BANK OF IRELAND



particularly when they involve unauthorised entities claiming to offer regulated financial services

THE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 2007



provides additional protections against misleading commercial practices that could be used in scam operations targeting Irish residents

Did you know?



IT IS AN OFFENCE



to dishonestly obtain property or services by deception, including through online means

IT IS ILLEGAL



to impersonate a legitimate financial institution, government agency, or business

CREATING FRAUDULENT WEBSITES



websites that mimic legitimate Irish businesses or services can constitute fraud

PHISHING SCAMS



that attempt to obtain personal financial information through deception are illegal

ONLINE INVESTMENT SCAMS



promising unrealistic returns can be prosecuted as fraudulent trading

CONSUMER PROTECTION LAWS



apply to online transactions, giving additional recourse against scammers

FINANCIAL SCAMS STATISTICS & FINDINGS

Hotline.ie addresses financial scams with clear connections to Ireland based on reports from members of the public.

We focus on fraudulent websites impersonating Irish organisations, phishing operations targeting Irish residents, fake online shops pretending to be Irish businesses, and unauthorised lending sites falsely claiming Irish regulatory oversight. We specifically handle scams using .ie domains, Irish business names, Irish contact details, or those explicitly marketing to Irish consumers. This focused approach enables us to take swift action through our notice and takedown procedures. Once a fraudulent website is taken offline, it cannot claim new victims. Takedowns are a direct and often understated form of prevention in the broader effort to combat online scams.

Financial scams are not only harmful to victims who may lose money, but they also undermine trust in legitimate online services and businesses. Reporting suspected financial scams helps protect the wider community from similar schemes.

OVERVIEW

In 2024, Hotline.ie identified significant activity in financial scams targeting Irish residents:

- **4% increase** in reports of suspected financial scams compared to 2023
- **51% increase** in confirmed financial scams targeting Irish residents
- **134 websites** identified as attempting to scam Irish residents
- **79% successful removal** rate of reported scam websites

TYPES OF FINANCIAL SCAMS

Hotline.ie 2024 analysis of confirmed financial scams revealed the following breakdown:

- **51% Phishing Sites:** Deceptive websites impersonating trusted organisations like Revenue, An Post, or Irish banks
- **24% Fake Online Shops:** Clone websites of legitimate businesses offering heavily discounted goods that consumers never receive
- **7% Loan Scams:** Fraudulent loan websites falsely claiming to be regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland
- **18% Other Scams:** Various other financial scams schemes

THE SURGE IN ONLINE SHOPPING SCAMS

The most significant trend in 2024 was the substantial increase in online shopping scams, growing from 15% of identified scams in 2023 to 24% in 2024. This 60% year-over-year growth makes it the fastest-rising category of financial fraud reported to Hotline.ie.

WHY ONLINE SHOPPING SCAMS ARE INCREASING

- **Exploitation of supply shortages:**
Scammers advertise hard-to-find items at attractive prices
- **Social media integration:**
Fraudulent shops now leverage social media platforms for promotion and credibility



**60%
growth**

MAKES SHOPPING SCAMS THE
FASTEST RISING CATEGORY OF
FINANCIAL FRAUD REPORTED TO
HOTLINE.IE

PROTECTION STRATEGIES

- 1 Research unfamiliar retailers**
Before purchasing, search for independent reviews from multiple sources
- 2 Verify site legitimacy**
Check for secure connections (<https://>), privacy policies, and clear contact information
- 3 Use secure payment methods**
Credit cards or established payment services offer better fraud protection
- 4 Be skeptical of extreme discounts**
Prices significantly below market value are a common red flag



OTHER FINANCIAL SCAMS

The remaining 25% of financial scams identified in 2024 included:

- **Fraudulent loan websites (7%)**
Targeting financially vulnerable individuals with false promises of easy credit while falsely claiming Central Bank of Ireland regulation
- **Investment fraud (5%)**
Including cryptocurrency scams promising extraordinary returns
- **Miscellaneous schemes (13%)**
Including advance fee fraud and various other scams

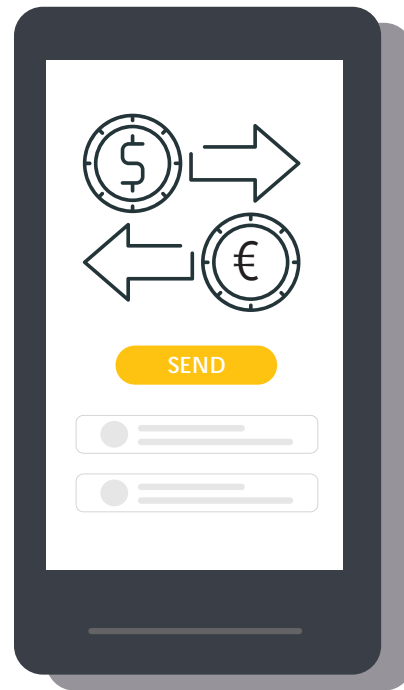
CHALLENGES IN REMOVING FINANCIAL SCAMS

Despite Hotline.ie's 79% success rate in removing financial scam websites in 2024, this work involves navigating significant obstacles that impact our ability to protect Irish residents from online fraud.

CROSS-BORDER JURISDICTION CHALLENGES

Most financial scams targeting Irish residents are hosted offshore in jurisdictions with limited regulatory cooperation, complicating enforcement efforts across borders.

- **Scammer Adaptation:** Fraudsters quickly establish mirror sites with different domain names when detected, sometimes using hosting services designed to resist takedown requests
- **Detection Delays:** Many scams operate undetected for weeks, with victims often reporting only after financial loss has occurred
- **Inconsistent Cooperation:** Success depends on hosting providers' willingness to act, with some using "bulletproof hosting" or legal disclaimers to evade responsibility
- **AI Enhancement:** Emerging artificial intelligence tools are enabling more convincing scams through realistic phishing, voice cloning, and personalised targeting at scale



These factors collectively create significant challenges for effective scam prevention and removal efforts

RACISM & XENOPHOBIA



600%

Increase in Reports

In 2024, Hotline.ie has seen an increase of 600% in reports of suspected Racism and Xenophobia, with just a small percentage of them found to be Illegal under Irish Law.

RACISM & XENOPHOBIA

Know the Law



IN IRELAND, ONLINE RACIST AND XENOPHOBIC CONTENT IS ADDRESSED UNDER TWO KEY PIECES OF LEGISLATION



the Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989 and the Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Act 2024

THE 2024 ACT



introduces hate crimes into Irish law for the first time, creating specific offences "aggravated by hatred" based on protected characteristics including race, colour, nationality, religion, national or ethnic origin, descent, gender, sex characteristics, sexual orientation, and disability

THE 1989 ACT



continues to address incitement to hatred while the 2024 Act provides additional protections against hate-motivated crimes

Did you know?



CREATING OR SHARING ONLINE CONTENT



that demonstrates hatred toward a person or group based on protected characteristics is now subject to enhanced penalties

DIGITALLY ALTERING IMAGES OR VIDEOS



to target someone based on their protected characteristics can constitute a hate offence

THREATENING, ABUSIVE OR INSULTING BEHAVIOUR ONLINE



that is aggravated by hatred carries stronger penalties than the same behaviour without the hate element

IF A COURT IMPOSES AN ENHANCED SENTENCE



due to hatred, it must state which protected characteristic(s) formed the basis for the more severe penalty

EVEN IF SOMEONE DOESN'T INTEND TO CAUSE WIDESPREAD HATRED



distributing material that is threatening, abusive or insulting toward protected groups can still be an offence

RACISM & XENOPHOBIA STATISTICS & FINDINGS

OVERVIEW

In 2024, Hotline.ie received and processed reports of suspected racism and xenophobia content online.

Our analysis revealed:

908

REPORTS OF SUSPECTED
RACISM OR XENOPHOBIA
RECEIVED IN 2024

600%

INCREASE IN REPORTS
COMPARED TO 2023

3

REPORTS DETERMINED TO BE POTENTIALLY
ILLEGAL UNDER IRISH LAW AND
FORWARDED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION

REPORT ANALYSIS & TRENDS

Analysis of the 908 reports revealed significant patterns in both content and platform distribution:

- 88% involved concerning content found exclusively on Twitter/X that was misidentified as hate speech but was religious or occult-themed discussions which is not inherently illegal under Irish law
- 11% contained potentially harmful content related to hate speech or similar material that violated platform policies but did not meet the legal threshold for racism or xenophobia under Irish legislation
- <1% (3 reports) contained content determined to be potentially illegal under Irish Law and were forwarded to An Garda Síochána

In cases where the content reported does not meet the threshold for illegality set out in Irish Law, but it is related to hate speech or other racist or xenophobic activity, Hotline.ie alerts the responsible platforms or website owner of it, as often these could be a breach of community guidelines or rules in place.



UNDERSTANDING THE LEGAL THRESHOLD

One of the most notable findings from our 2024 analysis is that only 3 out of 908 reports (less than 1%) contained content that potentially met the legal threshold for illegality under Irish law.

This significant gap highlights:

- Irish legislation sets a high bar for what constitutes illegal racist or xenophobic content
- There's a considerable difference between content that is offensive and content that is illegal
- Many reports involved content that might violate platform guidelines but doesn't reach the threshold of illegality
- The majority of reported content involved misidentified material, particularly on Twitter/X

Understanding the legal framework helps explain why only a tiny fraction of reported content meets the threshold for illegal hate speech under Irish law.

This significant disparity highlights a public perception gap between what people believe should be removed from online platforms and what actually meets the legal threshold for removal under current legislation. Many users report content they find personally offensive or objectionable, without understanding the specific legal criteria that defines illegal racist or xenophobic material in Ireland.



**3 out
of 908
reports**

(LESS THAN 1%)

CONTAINED CONTENT
THAT POTENTIALLY MET
THE LEGAL THRESHOLD
FOR ILLEGALITY UNDER
IRISH LAW

PARTNERSHIPS



Through collaborative efforts and strategic partnerships, we bolster our ability to protect the most vulnerable in society from online abuse and exploitation.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Since 1999, Hotline.ie has collaborated with key and emerging stakeholders to combat illegal online content:

- **An Garda Síochána:** We provide initial content assessment to the Garda National Protective Services Bureau through secure channels, facilitating rapid response
- **Coimisiún na Meán:** We operate under a formal agreement with Ireland's Media Commission that defines our complementary roles in the regulatory landscape
- **INHOPE Network:** Our founding membership in this 50+ global hotline network enables cross-border content removal and intelligence sharing

- **Irish Safer Internet Centre:** Collaboration with Webwise, ISPCC-Childline and NPC Primary creates a comprehensive approach to online safety.

INDUSTRY SUPPORT

Member companies fund our operations and follow our code of practice for consistent content removal procedures. Special thanks to Blacknight Solutions, Eir, and Virgin Media for their valuable contributions. We welcome public participation through reporting suspicious content and collaboration on developing best practices.



OUR MEMBERS

The work of Hotline.ie is actively supported by 21 companies whose invaluable contribution shows their commitment to combatting illegal online material and particularly the distribution and proliferation of child sexual exploitation online.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Actioned CSAM Reports: Confirmed cases of child sexual abuse material reported to Hotline.ie that are reviewed and assessed by Hotline.ie analysts, actioned for removal, and forwarded to An Garda Síochána for further investigation.

An Garda Síochána: Ireland's national police service. CPORT (Child Protection Operational Response Team): An EU-funded initiative that enhances collaboration between hotlines, law enforcement agencies, and international organisations to combat online child sexual abuse material.

CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material): Previously known as "child pornography," this term more accurately describes the content as documentation of child sexual abuse. It includes any visual representation showing a person who is or appears to be a child engaged in sexually explicit activity.

CSEM (Child Sexual Exploitation Material): Content that falls short of the legal threshold for CSAM but still poses serious ethical concerns regarding children's privacy and dignity, such as images of children posing in sexualised contexts.

Coimisiún na Meán: Ireland's Media Commission, responsible for overseeing online safety and media regulation.

COPINE Scale: A tool used to categorise child abuse images based on their severity for assessment purposes.

Dark Web: A part of the internet that requires specific software to access and is not indexed by standard search engines, often used for anonymous and sometimes illegal activities.

Department of Justice: The Irish government department responsible for justice policy and oversight of related services.

Derived Reports: Reports created by Hotline.ie analysts as a result of investigative leads uncovered while processing Direct Public Reports or Internationally Confirmed Reports.

Direct Public Reports: Reports submitted directly by members of the public in Ireland to Hotline.ie. European Commission: The executive branch of the European Union which partially funds Hotline.ie's operations.

Financial Scam: An attempt to steal money from an individual using deceptive methods, including fake websites, phishing emails, scam texts, and phone calls.

Fraud: A situation where a person is financially deceived by another, leading to personal financial loss.

Hash-matching Technology: Technology that creates a digital fingerprint of an image or video to identify copies of previously identified illegal content.

Hosting: The service of storing websites, applications, or other content on servers so they can be accessed via the internet.

ICCAM (International Child Sexual Abuse Material platform): A secure system developed by INHOPE that allows hotlines around the world to exchange reports of child sexual abuse material.

INHOPE: The International Association of Internet Hotlines, a global alliance of over 50 hotlines spanning six continents that work together to combat online CSAM.

Intimate Image Abuse: The non-consensual sharing of intimate images or videos criminalised under the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 (Coco's Law).

Irish Safer Internet Centre: A partnership between Hotline.ie, Webwise, ISPCC-Childline, and NPC Primary that provides a comprehensive national approach to online safety.

Luxembourg Guidelines: International guidelines for terminology related to the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Monitored Global CSAM Reports: Internationally confirmed CSAM cases accessed via the ICCAM system that are verified and monitored by Hotline.ie analysts.

Notice and Takedown: The process by which hosting providers remove illegal or harmful content after being notified of its existence.

Phishing: A deceptive practice where criminals impersonate trusted organisations to steal personal and financial information.

Pre-pubescent: A term referring to children who have not yet entered puberty.

Project CPORT: An initiative that facilitates direct data exchange between INHOPE member hotlines, law enforcement agencies, and INTERPOL to combat CSAM.

Proxy Servers: Intermediary servers that sit between a user's device and the websites they visit, often used to hide one's true location.

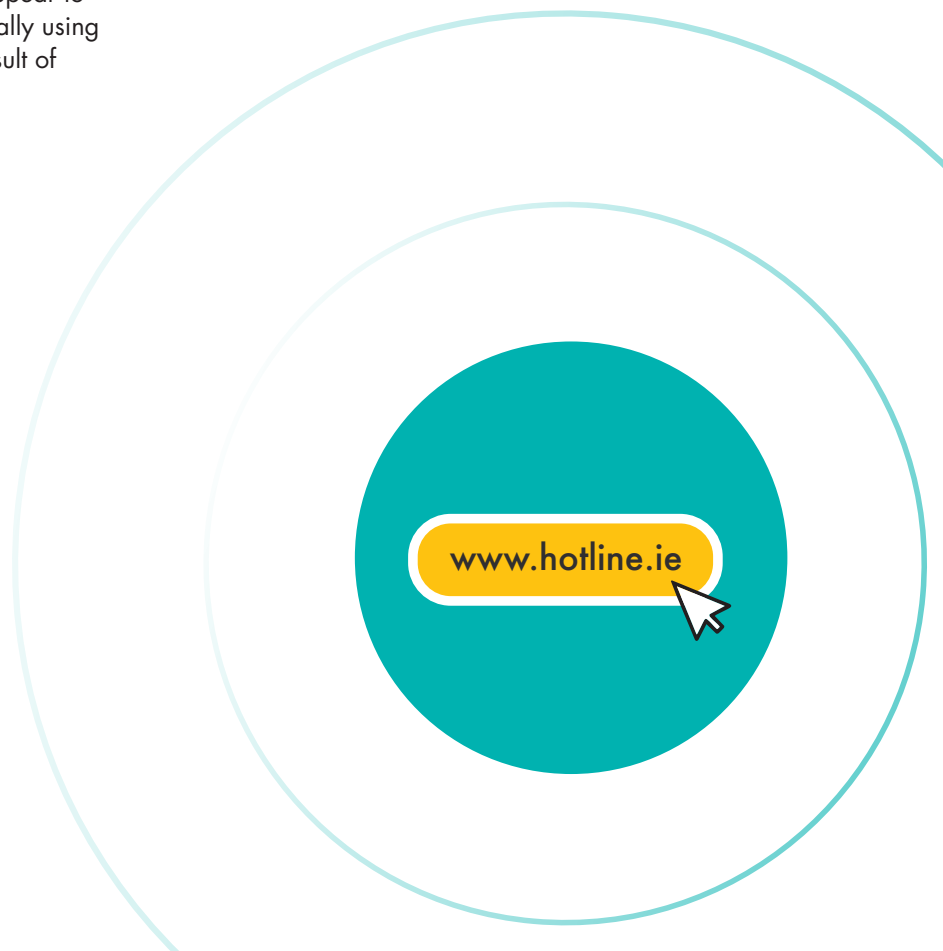
Racism and Xenophobia: Content that incites hatred based on race, ethnicity, or nationality.

Self-generated CSAM: Images or videos that appear to have been created by children themselves, typically using smartphone cameras or webcams, often as a result of grooming or coercion.

Sexual Extortion: A form of blackmail where someone threatens to share intimate images of the victim unless they receive payment or additional content.

TOR (The Onion Router): Software that enables anonymous communication by directing internet traffic through a worldwide network of relays to conceal a user's location and usage.

VPN (Virtual Private Network): A service that encrypts internet connections and masks IP addresses, often used legitimately for privacy but also by criminals to hide their activities.



NOTES

BUILDING A SAFER DIGITAL FUTURE

Hotline.ie is here to help
www.hotline.ie/report

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