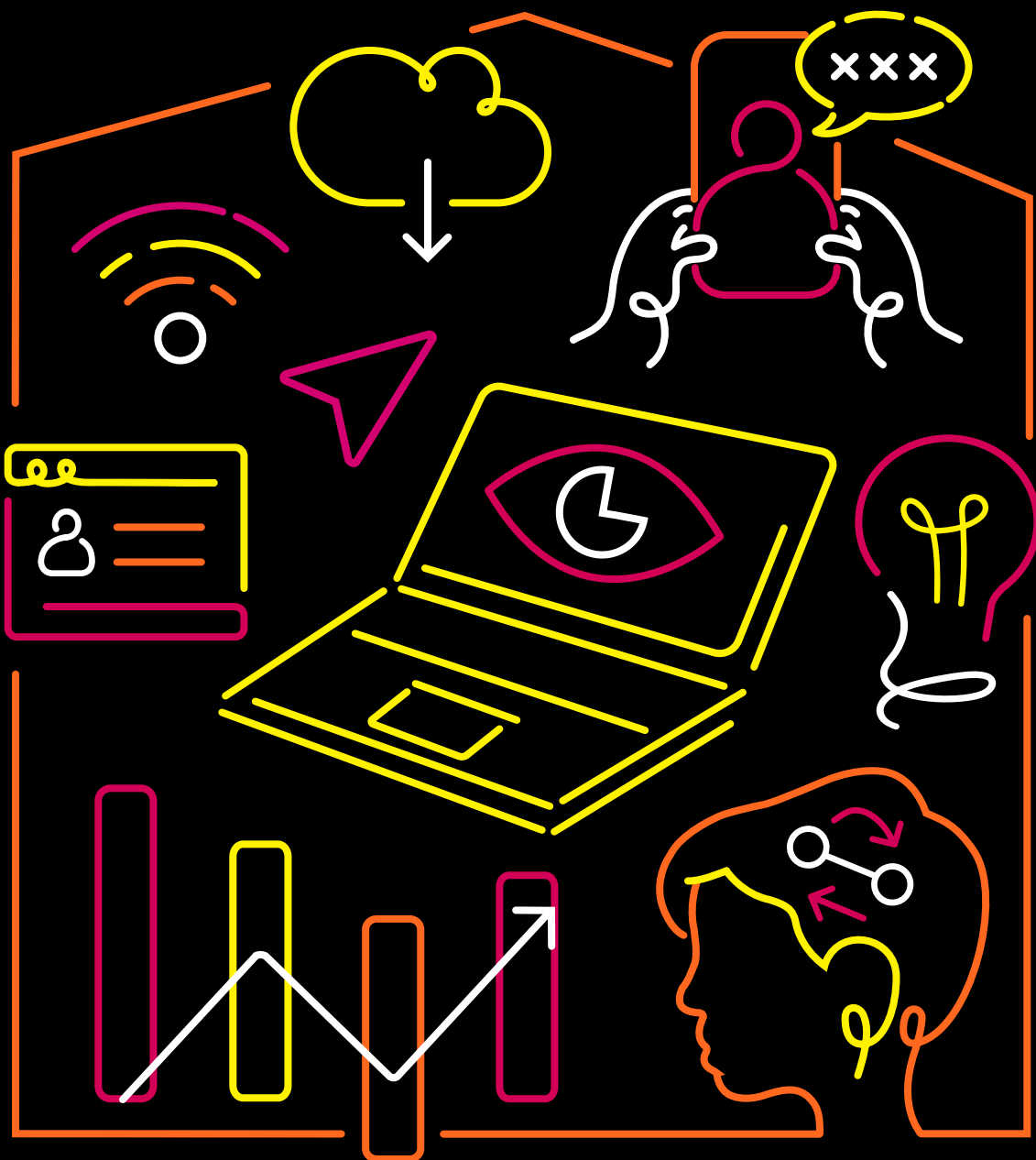


The work you don't see



Insights from the forefront of online safety

CONTENT WARNING: Please be aware that the content enclosed in this publication relates to illegal content online, including child sexual abuse and exploitation. As a result, some readers may find parts of this Annual Report uncomfortable or upsetting to read. The publication of this data 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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The work you don't see

Insights from the forefront of online safety

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

Report now

Securely and confidentially make a report at [hotline.ie/report](http://www.hotline.ie/report)

Follow us

 [hotline.ie](https://www.instagram.com/hotline.ie)

 [@hotline.ie](https://www.linkedin.com/company/hotline.ie)

 [@hotline-ie.bsky.social](https://twitter.com/hotline-ie.bsky.social)

Resource



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



www.npc.ie



www.ispcc.ie

Important resources & partners

An Garda Síochána: www.garda.ie

Emergency: 112 / 999

Confidential Line: 1800 666 111

Investigates criminal reports and safeguarding concerns referred by Irish Internet Hotline.

Department of Justice: www.justice.ie

Leads national policy on online safety and oversees funding and strategy.

INHOPE: www.inhope.org

Facilitates global cooperation and report exchange between hotlines.

Rape Crisis Network Ireland: www.rcni.ie

National Helpline: 1800 77 8888

Provides specialist support for survivors of sexual violence and crisis referral services.

Women's Aid: www.womensaid.ie

24hr Helpline: 1800 341 900

Supports women experiencing domestic abuse, including online and coercive control.

Men's Aid Ireland: www.mensaid.ie

Helpline: 01 554 3811

Provides confidential support for men affected by domestic abuse.

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre: www.drcc.ie

Helpline: 1800 77 8888

Offers counselling, accompaniment, and support for survivors of sexual violence.

Safe Ireland: www.safeireland.ie

National network supporting frontline domestic violence services and refuges.

HSE Sexual Assault Treatment Units:

www2.hse.ie/services/satu/

Medical care, forensic exams, and support following sexual assault.

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.

Much of what we do happens quietly. The content our analysts review, the reports assessed, the referrals made. But none of it happens alone. Every report submitted, every partnership sustained, every year of funding renewed is part of the same effort.

Thank you for being part of the work.

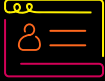
**Sincerely,
the team at Irish Internet Hotline**

Please scan
the QR code
to access our
digital annual
report



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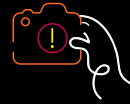
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Foreword

Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

As Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration I am pleased to introduce the Irish Internet Hotline 2025 Annual Report. Irish Internet Hotline is an organisation whose work continues to play a vital, if often unseen, role in safeguarding individuals and communities across Ireland.



Jim O'Callaghan, Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

The theme of the report “The Work You Don’t See” is therefore particularly fitting. For 26 years, Irish Internet Hotline (IIH), previously Hotline.ie, has been effectively tackling online harms, particularly those affecting children. Its specialised work, often invisible to the public, is supported by a confidential reporting system that enables individuals to come forward safely.

In 2025, IIH processed 61,317 reports, an unprecedented volume, marking the highest level of activity in its history. Each of these reports reflects a member of the public taking the critical step of flagging potentially harmful or illegal content online. This engagement from the public is essential to the effectiveness of IIH’s work.

Through these efforts more than 50,000 confirmed items of illegal content were successfully removed, representing a removal rate of 98%. This is a significant outcome. It demonstrates the effectiveness of established processes and impact of strong partnerships with key stakeholders, including An Garda Síochána and international partners.

Child sexual abuse material remains the most prevalent and deeply concerning category addressed by IIH.

In 2025, 49,808 reports were processed, reflecting the scale and persistence of this global crime. The removal rate achieved, 99.6% globally, demonstrates the determination

of those working to disrupt the circulation of this material and brings us closer to protecting children and vulnerable individuals in Ireland and beyond.

The report also highlights emerging trends. Intimate image abuse has become an increasingly prominent issue. 862 reports were processed in 2025 which represents the second largest category of confirmed illegal content handled by IIH. Since the introduction of legislation criminalising the non-consensual sharing of intimate images, there has been a steady rise in reports. This suggests growing public awareness of both the law and reporting mechanisms available, and an increased confidence among victims and survivors in coming forward. The figures also demonstrate that those affected are not confined to any single group, with both men and women impacted, as well as a concerning proportion of young people.

Reports of online sexual extortion present a more nuanced picture. In 2025, 136 reports were recorded, representing a decrease from the previous year. The proportion of victims under the age of 18 has also declined. However, the data shows that this remains a priority concern, with a clear concentration of cases affecting young adults, particularly those aged between 18 and 24, and a significant majority of victims identified as male. These insights are important in helping us shape targeted prevention and awareness efforts.



While the public often sees only the outcomes, the deeper work often goes unnoticed. It is important to recognise the people behind this work. The staff and analysts who review and assess reports with dedication and expertise.

Their work is central to the impact of IIH and to the protection of those at risk.

In addition, online financial scams targeting individuals in Ireland grew by 37% in 2025, with 204 confirmed scam websites identified and removed. This highlights the evolving tactics of those who seek to exploit others online, and reinforces the need for ongoing vigilance, public awareness and coordinated law enforcement efforts.

Across all these areas, one theme remains constant: the importance of trust. Trust in the systems that allow people to report harmful content, trust in organisations that respond, and trust that action will be taken. IIH has built and maintained this trust over many years through professionalism, consistency, and a clear commitment to public safety. I am grateful for the team's unwavering commitment to making the internet a safer space for all users.

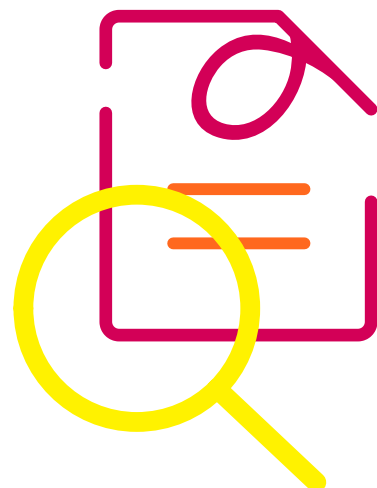
IIH's application in 2025 for designation as a trusted flagger under the EU Digital Services Act, which is currently under assessment by the Coimisiún na Meán, represents a significant milestone. If granted, this status will recognise IIH's established expertise and reliability in identifying illegal content. It will ensure that its notices are given priority handling by online platforms, thereby strengthening the speed and effectiveness of takedown processes.

As the digital landscape continues to evolve, with innovations including artificial intelligence, so too must our response. The Government is committed to supporting measures that strengthen online safety, enhance awareness, and ensure that appropriate protections are in place.

I would like to thank the team at Irish Internet Hotline for their sustained commitment and professionalism over the past 26 years, and for the impact of their work in 2025.

As Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, I am deeply committed to supporting this essential work, which often goes unseen, but which is delivering real and meaningful results.

I look forward to our continued partnership in the years ahead.



Welcome

From the CEO

The numbers in this report are not just statistics. They represent real people, real harm, and real outcomes. In 2025, Irish Internet Hotline processed over 61,000 reports, the highest volume in our 26-year history. Behind each one was an analyst who opened it, assessed it, and did what needed to be done. Most of that work happens quietly, and most of it you will never see.

Child sexual abuse material remains our largest and most demanding area. But the landscape shifted this year as platforms moved behind paywalls and paid-access barriers, limiting what we can reach. The content has not gone away. Our ability to act has been deliberately restricted by those who thrive on its exploitation.

Intimate image abuse continues to grow as a category, reflecting increased public awareness of our work since Coco's Law came into force in 2021. People are learning that this behaviour is a crime and that something can be done about it.

Financial scams targeting Irish residents continued to rise, and our success rate in removing confirmed scam websites improved significantly from the previous year. This shows what we can achieve together with the support of the organisations concerned. Racism and xenophobia reports decreased, though the gap between what people expect to be illegal and what meets the legal threshold under Irish law remains wide. The detail is in the pages that follow, and we expect that this area will be a renewed focus in the coming year.



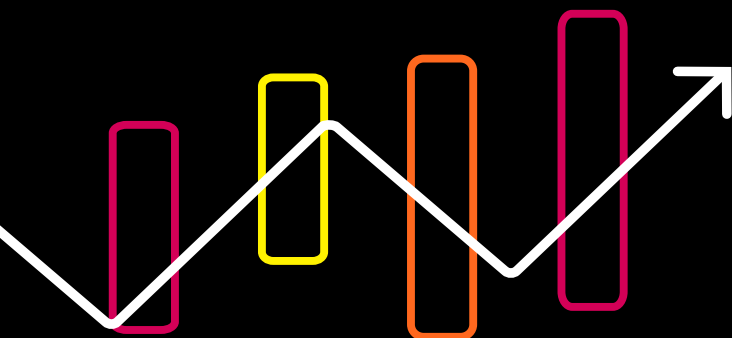
Mick Moran, CEO of Irish Internet Hotline

None of our work can happen in isolation. Our partners in the Irish Safer Internet Centre (WebWise, ISPCC Childline and The National Parents Council), the Department of Justice, An Garda Síochána, INHOPE, Coimisiún na Meán, and the European Union all make this work possible. Our member companies and board of directors provide the support, oversight, and strategic direction that keeps this organisation on course.

To our team, thank you. Every report you process creates a ripple of good that is impossible to measure but absolutely real. A child is not revictimised, an intimate image is taken down, a scam website is removed before the next person falls into the trap. You do this every day, and it matters.

To everyone reading this, the people who produce and distribute illegal content will continue to adapt, and so must we. With your support, we will.

Child sexual abuse material remains our largest and most demanding area. But the landscape shifted this year as platforms moved behind paywalls and paid-access barriers, limiting what we can reach.



About Irish Internet Hotline

Irish Internet Hotline (Hotline.ie) is Ireland's national service for reporting illegal content online. As a not-for-profit organisation, we work closely with An Garda Síochána, the Irish Government, technology companies, and NGOs to create a safer internet for everyone, especially children.

Established in 1999, Irish Internet Hotline (IIH), 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.

**Ireland's reporting
service for illegal online
content since 1999.**

OUR COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

We recognise that online child sexual abuse cannot be tackled alone, and as a result we participate in national and international partnerships. Our operational procedures are approved by the Department of Justice, and we work closely with An Garda Síochána, INHOPE (the international network of 50+ hotlines), and the Irish Safer Internet Centre.

HOW WE'RE FUNDED

Our work is funded by the Department of Justice, co-financed by the European Union through grant aid, and supported by our members, which include technology companies, search providers, financial institutions, mobile operators, and internet service providers among others.

Every report we receive is assessed individually against Irish and EU law by analysts who carry end-to-end responsibility for each case: legal assessment, technical tracing of hosting infrastructure, takedown coordination with platforms and ISPs, referrals to An Garda Síochána, and direct contact with victims. Our analysts hold certifications from INHOPE and INTERPOL, and we are continuously building capacity to adapt to the changing online landscape.

The team at Irish Internet Hotline works relentlessly to make the internet a safer place, especially for children.

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 content to Irish Internet Hotline, 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. Every report we receive is assessed by a trained analyst. If the content is illegal, we act issuing takedown notices, referring to An Garda Síochána, and coordinating internationally where needed. If it isn't illegal but breaches platform rules, we flag it to the platform. Either way, your report is never wasted. You don't

need to be sure that something is illegal before reporting it. If something looks wrong, report it and let us assess it. Even reports that don't meet the legal threshold help us track emerging patterns and trends.

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

On Hotline.ie you can securely, anonymously and confidentially report:

- **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:



Statistics & Findings

61,317 Total Reports Processed



In 2025, overall volume grew 14.7%, driven by continued expansion of international monitoring and strong direct reporting

Understanding the Data & Our Approach

We believe in being open about how we work and what we find. The figures in this report are presented in a way that shows not just what we detected, but also how.

The data in this report covers the period from 1st January to 31st December 2025. All figures and insights are based on reports submitted by the public to Irish Internet Hotline. 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.

We are committed to using clear, accurate, and victim-centred language throughout this report. Terms such as child sexual abuse material (CSAM) or Intimate Image Abuse (IIA) are used in place of outdated terminology that can minimise the seriousness of the harm or imply consent. This reflects our focus on recognising the experiences of victims and survivors, and on ensuring that the way we describe this issue aligns with the reality of abuse. By combining transparent reporting with a victim-focused approach, we aim to provide meaningful insight while maintaining respect for those affected.

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**

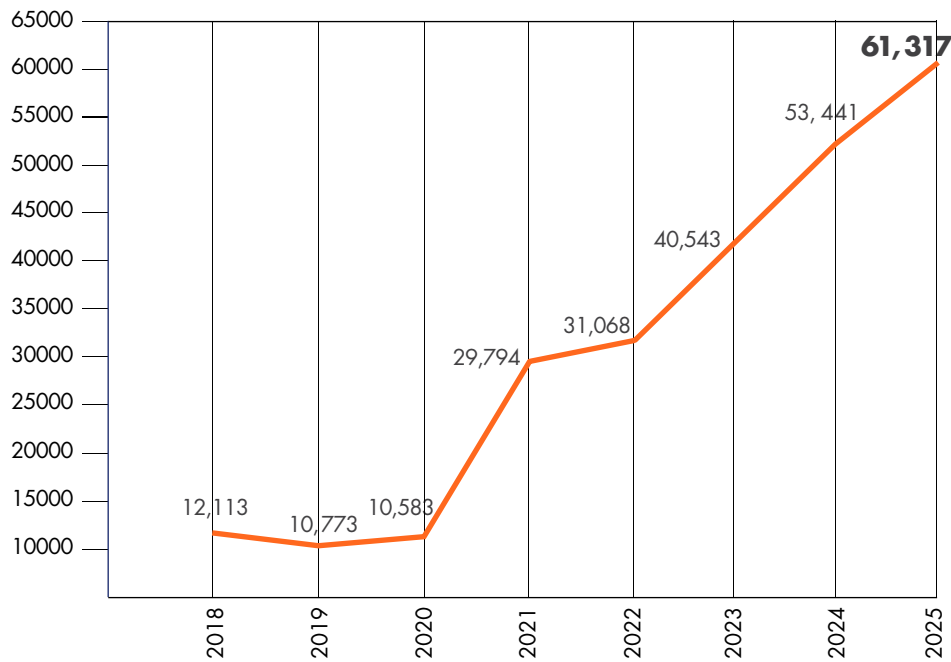


Statistics & Findings

Total overview

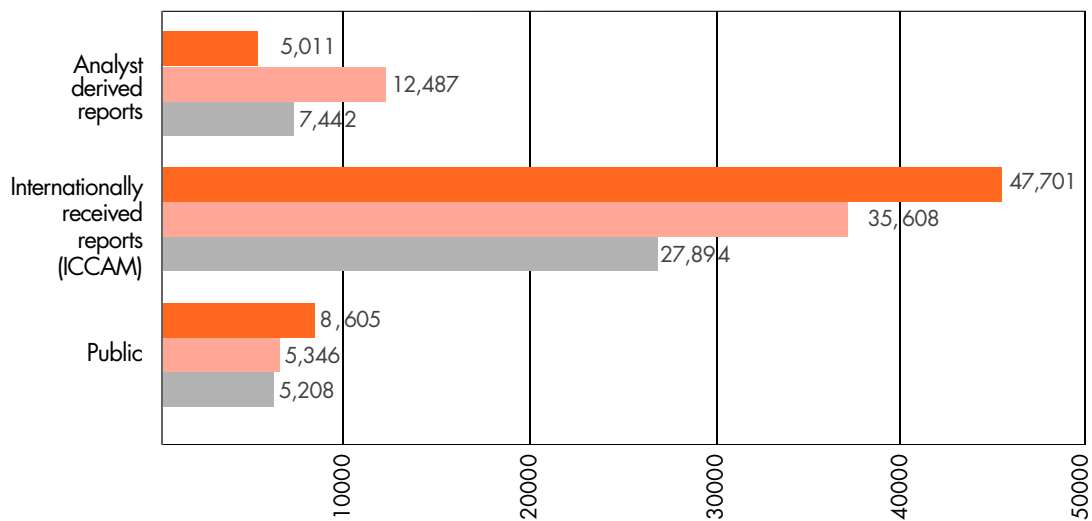
There were 61,317 reports made to Irish Internet Hotline in 2025, representing a 14.7% increase from 2024. This continues the sustained upward trend in reports seen over recent years.

2025 Annual volume of reports received by Irish Internet Hotline



Annual volume of reports actioned by Irish Internet Hotline 1 report = from 10(s) to 100(s) of images

Report Sources In 2025



2025 2024 2023 Total Reports in 2025: 61,317

61,317 TOTAL 2025 REPORTS

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 8,605 Direct public reports | 5,011 Analyst Derived reports | 47,701 Internationally received reports |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|

REPORTS BY REPORTING CHANNEL

| | | | |
|--|--------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| ADULT PORNOGRAPHY | 1,642 | CONTENT ALREADY REMOVED | 2,324 |
| EXTREME ADULT CONTENT | 31 | INSUFFICIENT DETAIL | 721 |
| AGE INAPPROPRIATE CHILD POSING (CHILD NUDITY & CHILD EXPLOITATION) | 474 | OUTSIDE IRISH INTERNET HOTLINE REMIT | 331 |
| OTHER (NOT ILLEGAL) | 1,637 | OTHER (NOT FOUND & NOT ACCESSIBLE) | 3,118 |
| QUERY | 136 | | |
| NON-ILLEGAL TOTAL: 3,920 | | | |
| MONITORED GLOBAL CSAM REPORTS | 41,931 | | |
| CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL | 7,877 | | |
| CHILD GROOMING | 24 | | |
| INTIMATE IMAGE ABUSE | 862 | | |
| RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA | 4 | | |
| FINANCIAL SCAM | 204 | | |
| ILLEGAL TOTAL: 50,902 | | | |

REPORTS BY IRISH INTERNET HOTLINE CLASSIFICATION

NOTE: Reports classified as insufficient detail, outside Irish Internet Hotline remit, not accessible, and not found are termed "non-actionable reports" because our analysts cannot identify, access, or confirm the content. The "outside Irish Internet Hotline 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.

In 2025, direct reports from the public rose to 8,605, up from 5,346 in 2024, representing a more moderate increase, while analyst-derived reports, now reported as a separate category, fell from 12,487 to 5,011, primarily due to known CSAM sites moving behind paid-access barriers that Irish Internet Hotline cannot access under its operational procedures. This is explored in detail later in this report. Internationally confirmed reports through the ICCAM/ INHOPE network grew strongly, from 35,608 to 47,701. This multi-source approach demonstrates how a single public report can lead to the identification of entire networks of illegal activity and enable multiple takedowns across different jurisdictions.

Our analysts classified 50,902 reports as relating to illegal material. This represents 83% of the total, compared to 85% in 2024. This small proportional decrease reflects the

continued strong growth in total report volume, including a large increase in Monitored Global CSAM reports received through the ICCAM system.

Terminology Note

Direct Public Reports: Reports submitted by the public to Irish Internet Hotline, often revealing initial CSAM instances.

Analyst-Derived Reports: Reports generated by our analysts from leads discovered while processing other reports, identifying additional CSAM content on different platforms.

Internationally Confirmed Reports (ICCAM): Reports from the global INHOPE network platform, confirmed as CSAM internationally and monitored by our analysts to verify accessibility and ensure removal.

Online Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation

54,603 Suspected CSAM Reports



Of which 49,808 were assessed to be child sexual abuse material, referred to law enforcement and actioned for removal by Irish Internet Hotline. 99.6% of assessed CSAM removed at source.

Know the Law



Child sexual abuse material (CSAM) is illegal under the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998, as amended by the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017



Online grooming and technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation are covered under various offences in 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

Key Information



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



Engaging in any sexual acts with a child under the age of 17 is a crime



It’s a crime to send sexually explicit images, videos or messages to a child under the age of 17. It’s illegal to expose a child to sexually explicit acts or to pornography

CSAM Statistics & Findings

Record Growth in CSAM Reports

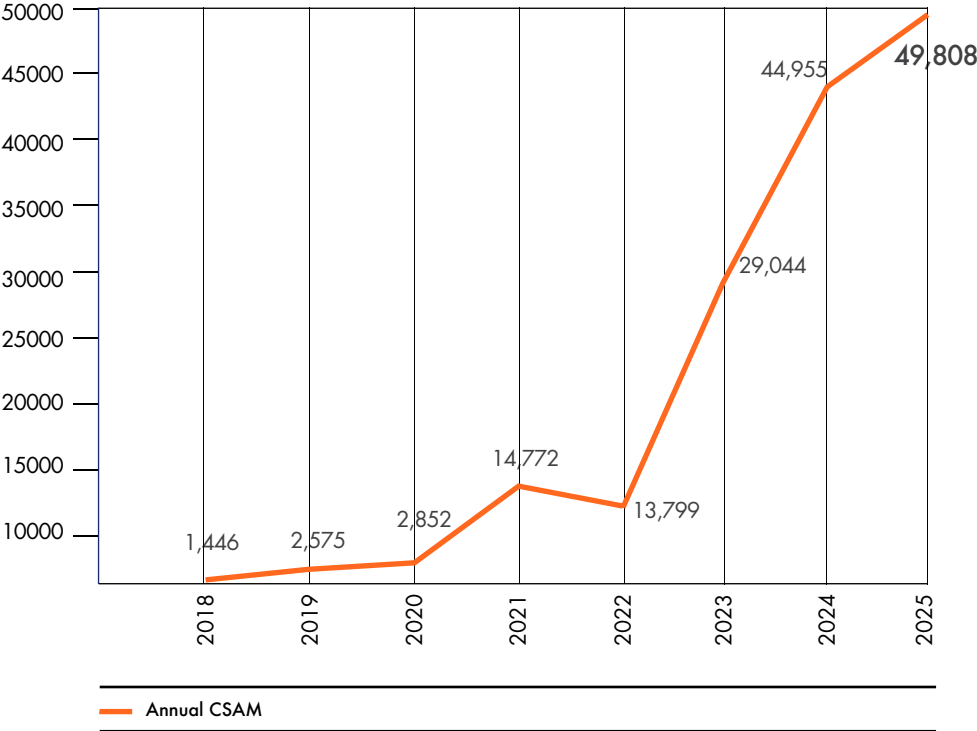
In 2025, Irish Internet Hotline processed 49,808 reports of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), a 10.8% increase from 44,955 in 2024. This growth was driven primarily by expanded international monitoring through the ICCAM system.

The 49,808 CSAM reports in 2025 were processed through two distinct workflows:

- 7,877 Actioned CSAM Reports
- 41,931 Monitored Global CSAM Reports (49% increase from 2024)

The shift from Actioned to Monitored reflects the growing impact of paid-access barriers, examined in detail later in this report.

2025 Volume Of Reports Classified As CSAM By Irish Internet Hotline



CSAM Reporting Framework

International Collaboration and Report Types

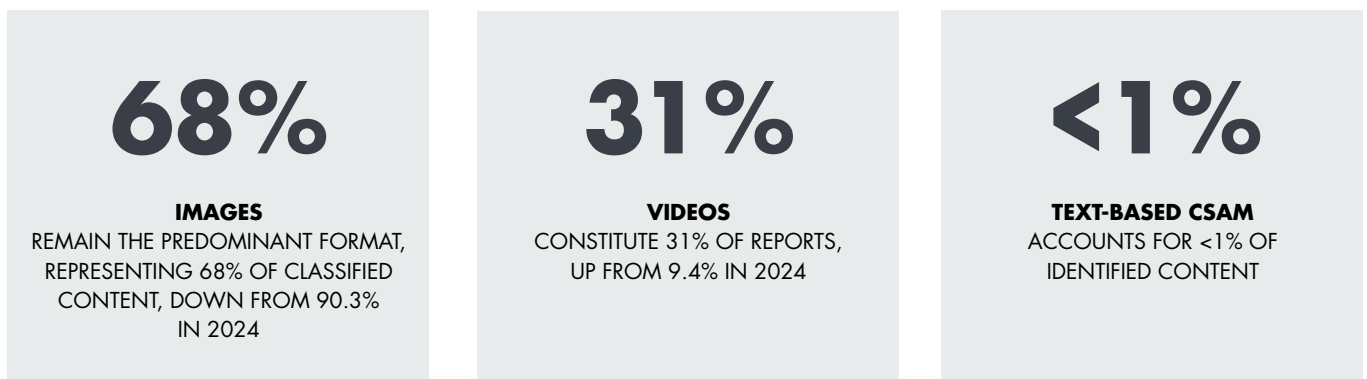
- Actioned CSAM Reports:** These are confirmed cases of child sexual abuse material reported to Irish Internet Hotline. These reports are reviewed and assessed by our analysts, actioned for removal, and forwarded to An Garda Síochána for further investigation.
- Monitored Global CSAM Reports:** These refer to internationally confirmed CSAM cases accessed via the ICCAM system. Our analysts verify the accessibility of the CSAM and monitor its status. These reports typically involve content hosted outside the INHOPE network. Irish Internet Hotline 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.

Of the 49,808 reports handled in 2025, 41,931 were Monitored Global reports originating from the ICCAM platform. This international collaboration through the INHOPE network of 50+ hotlines extends Irish Internet Hotline’s reach far beyond what direct public reporting alone could achieve.

Despite differences in legal frameworks across jurisdictions, Irish Internet Hotline maintains a 99.6% removal rate for assessed CSAM.

Content Types:

Analysis of content formats reveals important patterns:



Content Severity

Irish Internet Hotline classifies confirmed CSAM on a five-level severity scale. In 2025, the largest single category was Level 4, which covers penetrative sexual activity involving children and adults, accounting for 44% of all assessed content. The prevalence of this second most severe classification at this volume reflects the gravity of the material being encountered in day-to-day operations.

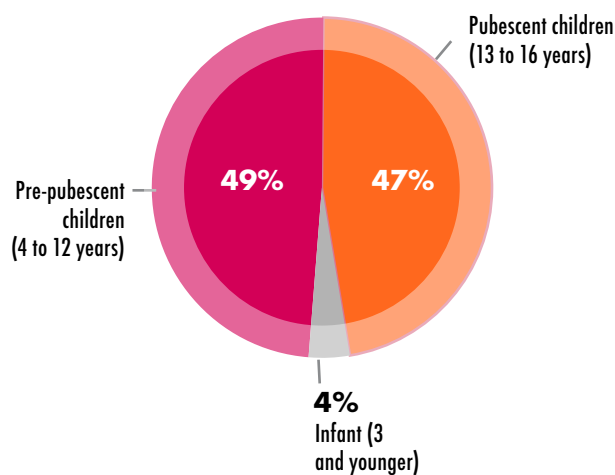
Of particular concern is the increase in content involving infants. Reports involving infant victims rose from 1% in 2024 to 4% in 2025, a quadrupling in a single year. While this remains a small proportion of overall reports, the vulnerability of these victims and the severity of the abuse depicted makes this one of the most disturbing trends in the 2025 data.

Demographic Analysis

Our data reveals critical insights about the children depicted in CSAM

AGE BREAKDOWN

This demographic data represents 12,682 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: The gender distribution of victims should be interpreted with caution. Reporting patterns can be significantly influenced by individual cases, particularly where a single reporter submits multiple reports. The figures may not fully reflect the broader population of victims.



6%
Boys



64%
Girls

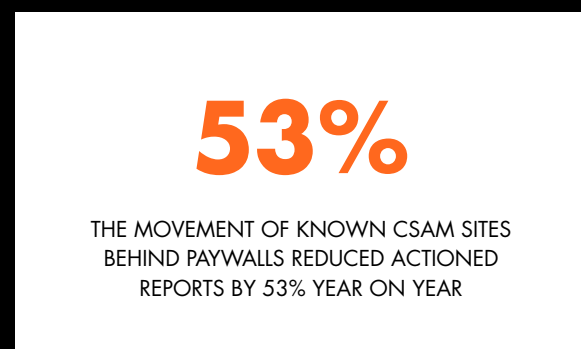
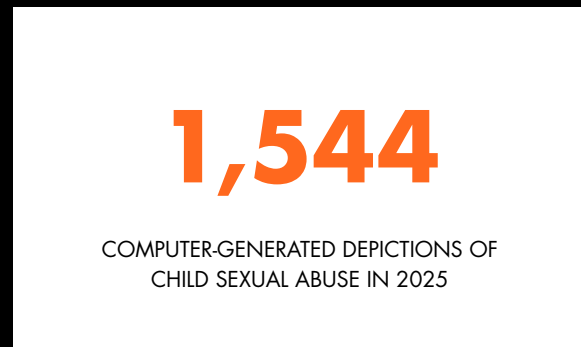


30%
Both (Boys & Girls)

Key Insights

The 2025 data points to a shifting landscape. Report volumes continue to rise faster than reactive removal can address, computer-generated material is growing rapidly, forums have cemented their position as the dominant distribution vector, and paid-access barriers are increasingly limiting what our analysts can reach directly.

- 1 **Volume continues to outpace capacity:** We received 49,808 CSAM reports in 2025, up from 44,955 the previous year. The scale of illegal content online now exceeds what reactive removal alone can address.
- 2 **Computer-generated CSAM is growing:** Reports involving computer-generated depictions of child sexual abuse, predominantly cartoon and illustrated imagery, grew 325% (from 363 to 1,544). While explicitly illegal under Irish law, the volume and variety of this material present growing challenges for both detection and assessment.
- 3 **Forums dominate distribution:** These are dedicated infrastructure that are recurrently chosen for their resilience to spread CSAM. Content is organised, monetised, and distributed at scale.
- 4 **Access barriers are limiting action:** The movement of known CSAM sites behind paywalls reduced actioned reports by 53% year on year. Our analysts can see that illegal content exists behind these barriers but cannot access it under current procedures.



Services Misused

for CSAM Distribution

Platform Distribution Analysis

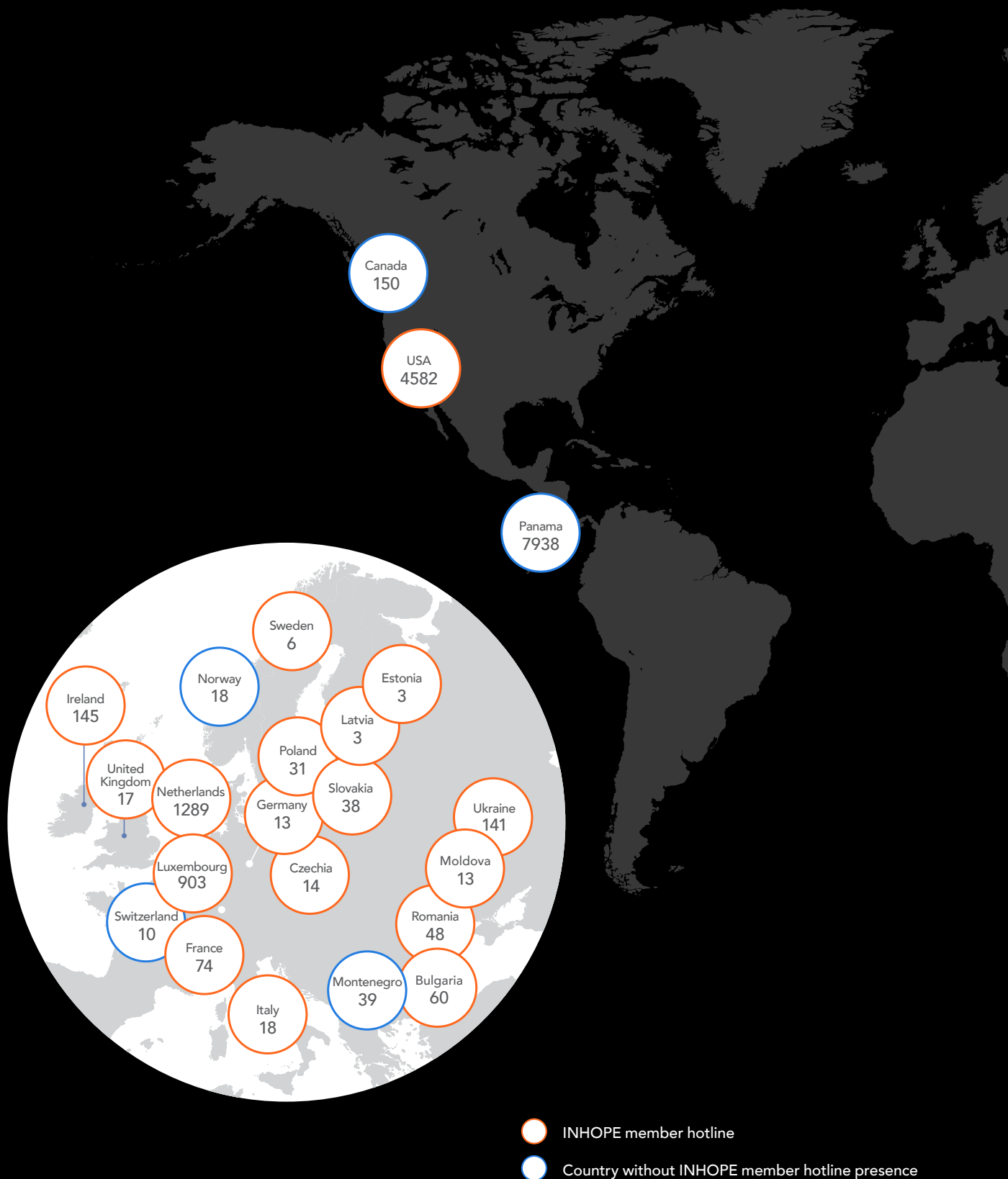
Our analysis of CSAM reports in 2025 revealed clear patterns in how various online platforms are exploited for the distribution of illegal content. This distribution pattern highlights a significant shift towards dedicated forums as primary vehicles for CSAM sharing, representing a substantial change 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 Irish Internet Hotline's public reports, as such they do not represent the full scope of CSAM distribution on the Internet.

Snapshot of CSAM hosting patterns





48,696

TOTAL REPORTS

449

LOCATION NOT DETERMINED
(TOR NETWORK)

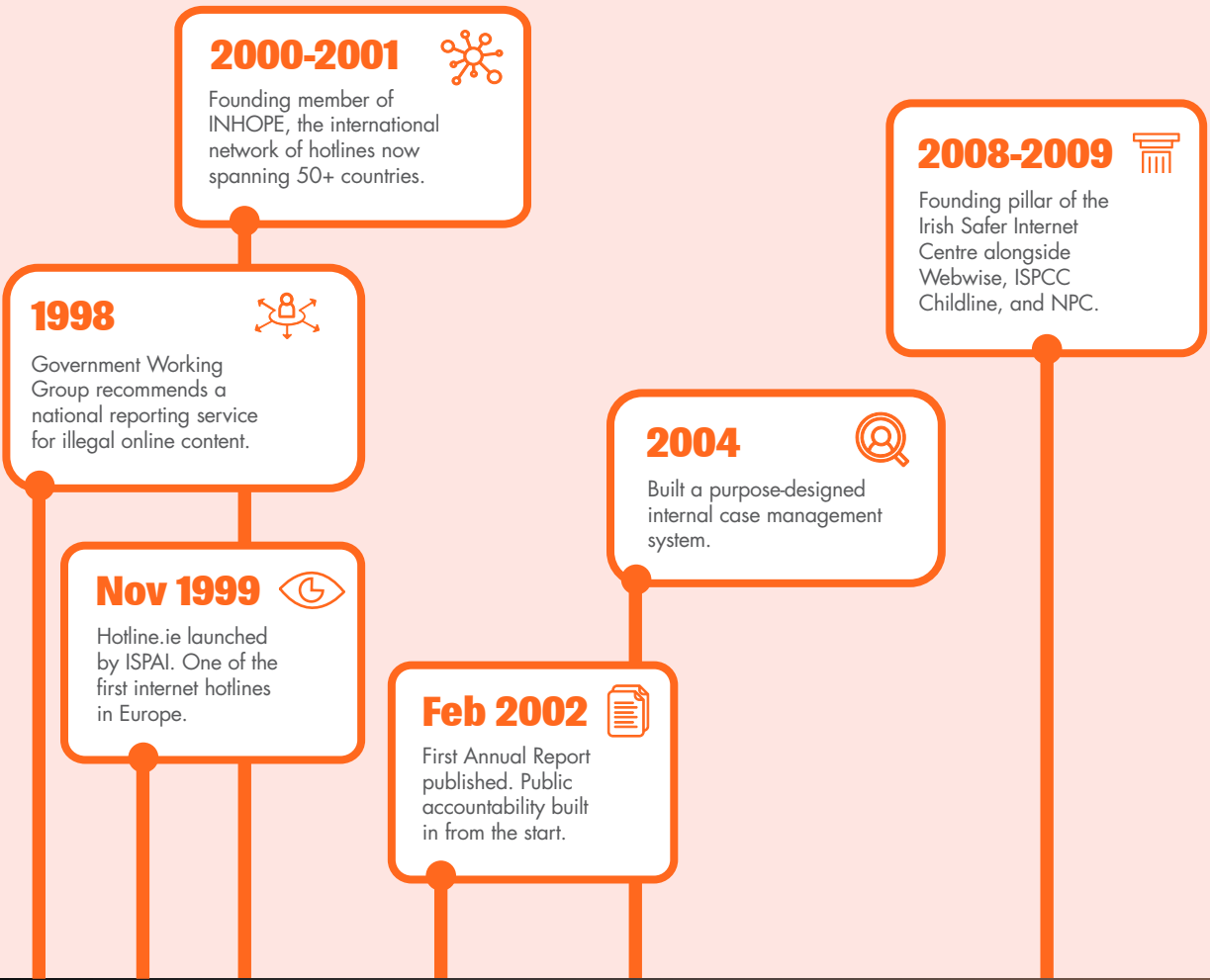
41

COUNTRIES COVERED

16.8%

OF ALL CSAM WAS HOSTED IN EU

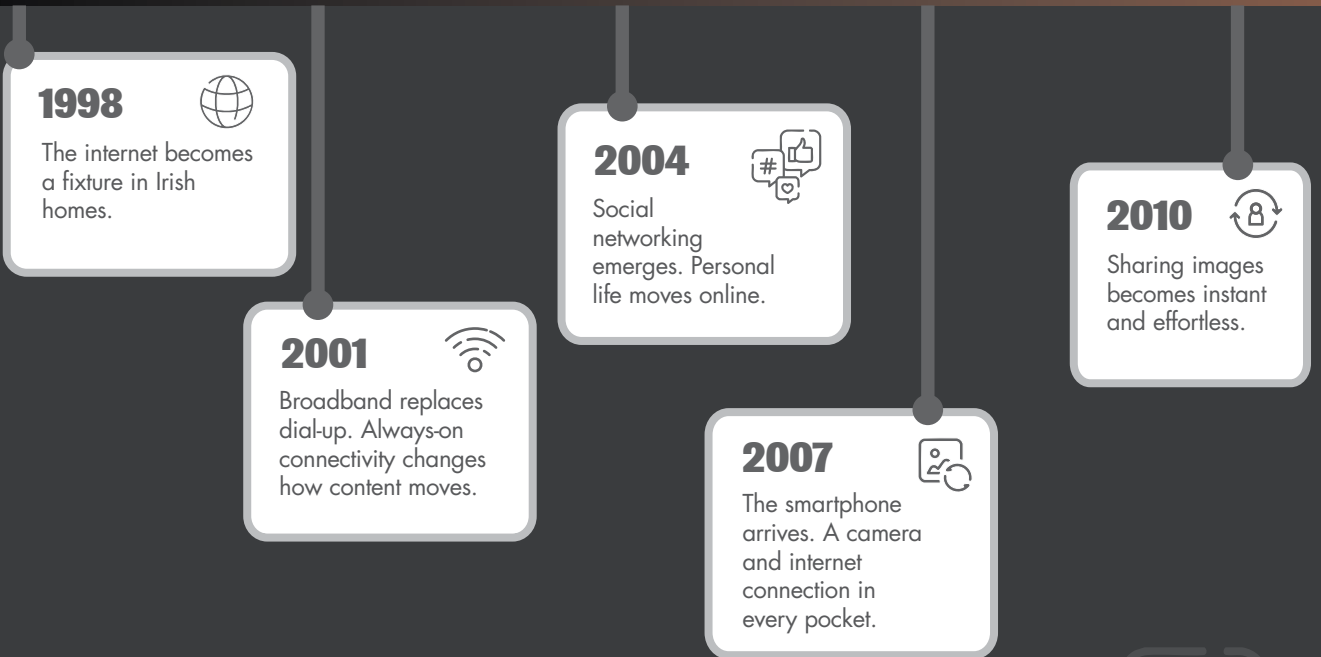
Irish Internet Hotline Milestones



NUMBER OF REPORTS BY YEAR

| 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 0 | 17 | 394 | 465 | 943 | 1,587 | 1,790 | 2,390 | 2,677 | 2,590 | 1,966 | 2,117 | 2,646 | 2,411 |

World & Technology Milestones



Timeline 1998-2025

| 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 2,950 | 2,568 | 4,863 | 3,153 | 7,141 | 7,591 | 12,113 | 10,773 | 10,583 | 29,794 | 31,068 | 40,543 | 53,441 | 61,317 |

2020



- ✓ ISPAI formally refocuses around Hotline.ie. The service becomes the organisation.
- ✓ Third consecutive year exceeding 10,000 reports

2023



40,543 reports. A new record.

2024



Mick Moran appointed CEO. CSEM notice and takedown programme made permanent.

2021



- ✓ 29,794 reports. 182% surge. The pandemic effect arrives.
- ✓ One of only 4 hotlines globally with ICCAM Monitored Global CSAM capability.
- ✓ First IIA reports received under Coco's Law. Ready from day one.

2025



Legal name updated to Irish Internet Hotline (IIH). 61,317 reports. 26 years of uninterrupted operation.

2016



Live video broadcasting opens to everyone.

2020



COVID-19. The world moves online overnight.

2022



AI image generation becomes a mainstream tool available to anyone.

2024



EU Digital Services Act enters full digital enforcement.

2012



Private, disappearing messages go mainstream.

2021



Coco's Law enacted. Intimate image abuse becomes a criminal offence in Ireland.

2025



AI-generated synthetic imagery becomes nearly indistinguishable from real photographs.

2023



Coimisiún na Meán established as Ireland's online safety regulator.



Then and Now - Insights from the forefront of online safety

At the tail end of 1999, the ISPAI launched Hotline.ie. In its first eighteen months, the service received 671 reports. They arrived by website, by email, by phone, by fax, and occasionally by letter. A small team assessed each one, referred what needed referring, and got illegal content taken down where they could. The internet was still new, and so was the work of making it safer.

Even then, the challenges were familiar. That first annual report documented pay sites and password-protected archives being used to restrict access to child sexual abuse material, making it harder to assess and act on. It logged animated cartoon CSAM requiring careful legal interpretation. It identified staff welfare as a concern that would need ongoing attention. These were the operational realities from day one because the people producing and distributing this material have always looked for new ways to evade detection, resist removal, and maximise its reach.

None of that has gone away. The pay sites are now paywalled platforms. The cartoon imagery now sits alongside AI-generated content. The jurisdictions have shifted but the problem of cross-border hosting is the same one it was twenty-six years ago. What has changed is

the volume. The 671 reports of that first eighteen-month period are now exceeded in a single working day.

Behind every one of those reports, then and now, is someone who opened it, assessed it, and decided what needed to happen next. Over twenty-six years, dozens of analysts and the people who supported them and the service's mission have carried that responsibility, many of them for years at a time, most of them quietly. Some are still here. Others have moved on, taking the weight of that work with them. Each of them helped build the standards, the processes, and the institutional knowledge that this service runs on today. The internet is dramatically different, and the awareness of the harms and the need to address them has never been greater. The work continues as it ever has.

The internet is dramatically different, and the awareness of the harms and the need to address them has never been greater. The work continues as it ever has.

Snapshot Of CSAM Hosting Patterns

Hosting Insights 2025

The 2025 data on illegal content hosting reveals critical patterns in how harmful material is distributed globally. Illegal content was identified across 57 countries, with sharp concentrations in a small number of jurisdictions.

Global distribution in 2025

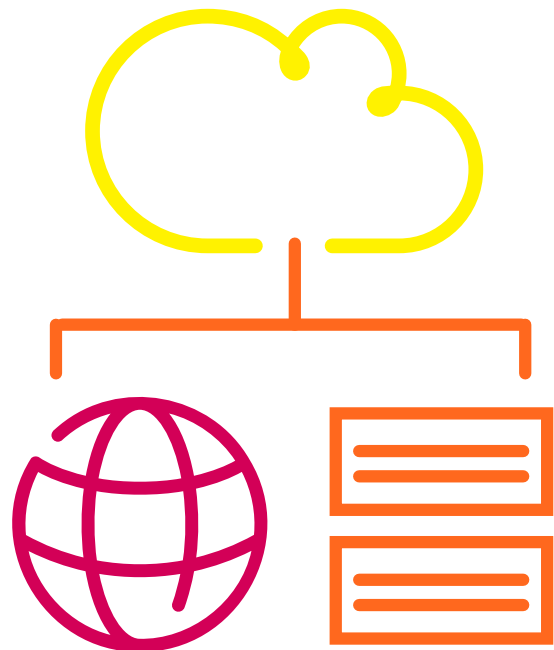
Vietnam emerged as the primary hosting location in 2025 with 28,764 instances of illegal content identified, representing 59% of all CSAM actioned globally by Irish Internet Hotline. Panama (7,938) and the United States (4,582) were the next largest hosting locations. In a notable positive development, the Netherlands fell from 11,779 instances in 2024 to just 1,289 in 2025, and Germany from 4,582 to just 13, reflecting the impact of concerted enforcement activity in those jurisdictions.

A certain portion of the material, 449 domains, could not be definitively traced to specific jurisdictions, primarily due to hosting on the dark web or through anonymisation services like TOR.

Ireland

Ireland continued to account for a negligible share of global CSAM hosting. Illegal content identified on Irish infrastructure is removed quickly, reflecting strong cooperation between Irish Internet Hotline, hosting providers, and An Garda Síochána.

Through such partnerships, we have helped ensure that 99.6% of all CSAM reported to INHOPE has been removed worldwide, regardless of where it is hosted, while facilitating the necessary law enforcement actions to identify and protect victims.



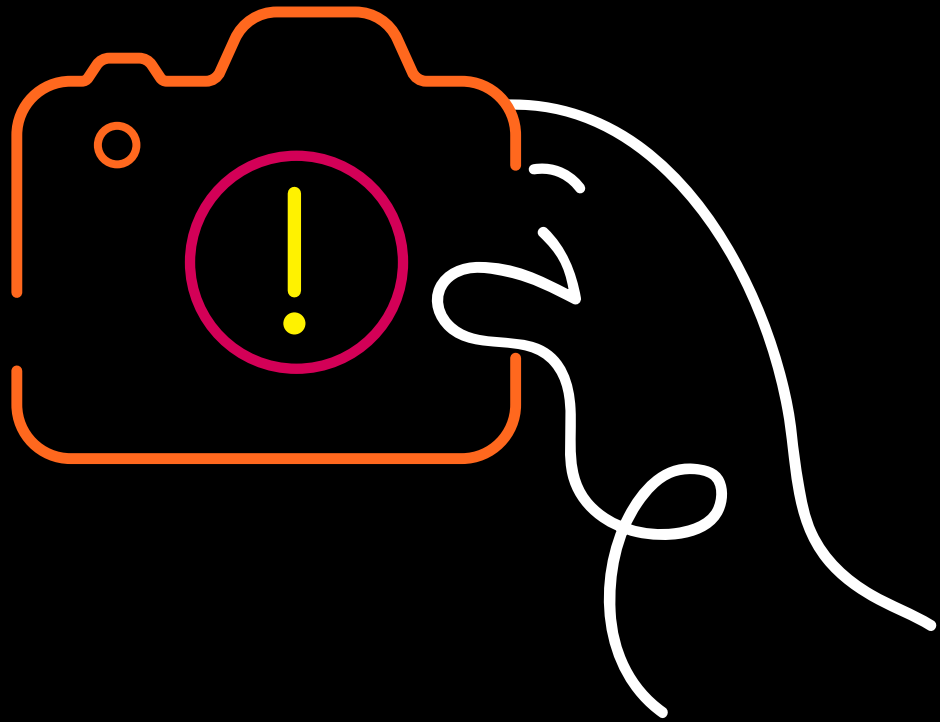
International Challenge

Online exploitation remains a cross-border challenge. Content created in one jurisdiction is routinely hosted in another, and effective responses require coordination across all of them.

This distribution pattern underscores the vital importance of international cooperation mechanisms like the INHOPE network. Through such partnerships, we have 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.

Intimate Image Abuse

**96% Successful international
removal rate**



**136 of reports of intimate image abuse in
2025 were of sexual extortion scams**

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



"Upskirting" or "downblousing" - taking photographs without consent from below someone's skirt or down their blouse, is an offence under Coco's Law

Key Information



It is 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



Even without intent to cause harm, sharing an intimate image without consent is still an offence



It is a criminal offence in Ireland to threaten to share intimate images of a person without their consent, even if the images are not shared



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

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:

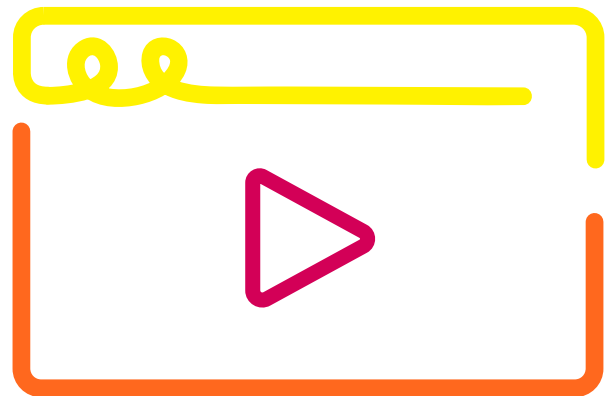
- A person sharing an intimate image of you on social media without your permission
- Someone digitally altering your image with sexually explicit content and sharing it without consent
- Your intimate image or video being posted on an adult website without your knowledge or agreement

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 Irish Internet Hotline in 2025, 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 (53% of reports) and cases where images had not yet been shared, including threats to share (47% 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 862 IIA reports received in 2025, 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.



*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

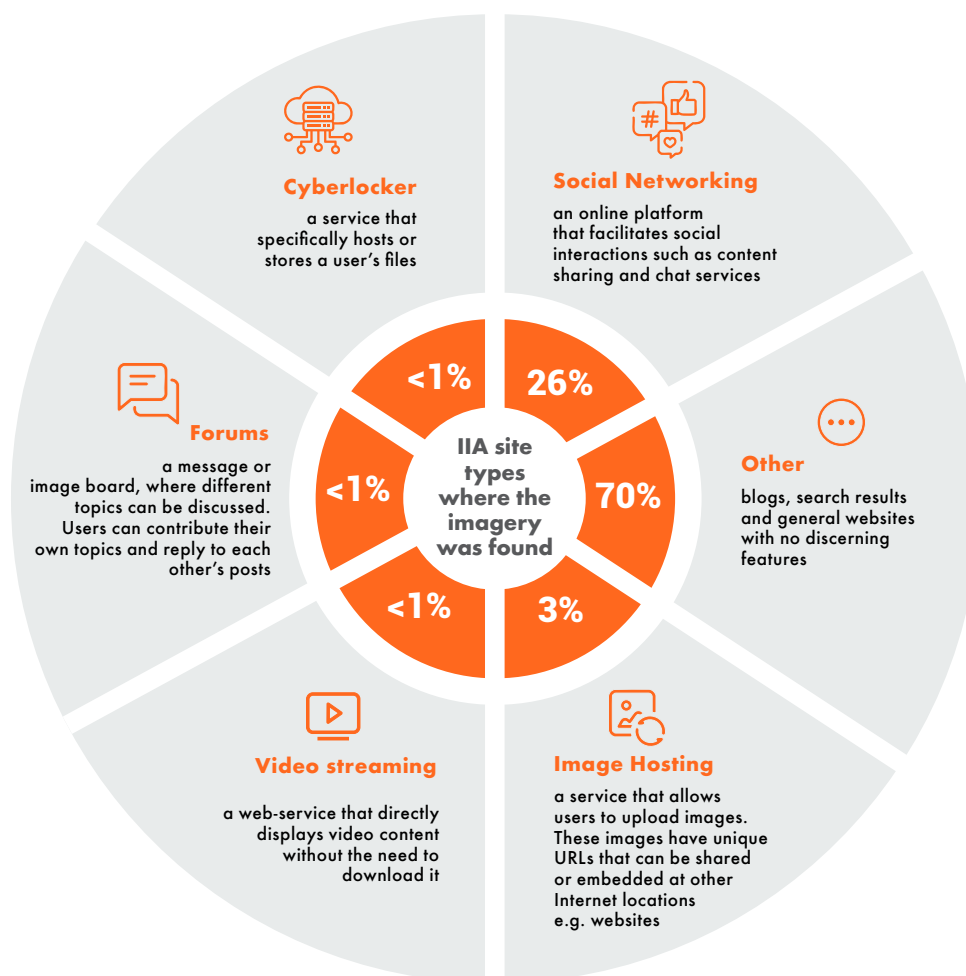
IIA Key Findings

For publicly accessible imagery, we achieved a 96% removal rate, demonstrating the effectiveness of our notice and takedown procedures. Additionally, 211 cases were referred to An Garda Síochána at the reporter's request.

OVERVIEW: WHEN IMAGES ARE SHARED

Of the total IIA reports, 459 reports involved confirmed sharing of intimate images:

- 99% (456 cases) involved publicly accessible content
- <1% (3 cases) involved sharing through encrypted or private communication channels



Intimate image abuse was distributed across a range of platforms:

- 70% of cases occurred on various websites other than social media or forums
- 26% took place on social networking platforms
- 3% involved image hosting sites

- 1% were found on forums
- The remaining cases were distributed across video streaming services, cyberlockers, and other platforms
- The concentration on smaller websites and non-social-media platforms is notable.

Demographic Analysis

GENDER BREAKDOWN

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



55%

Male



44%

Female



<1%

Transgender

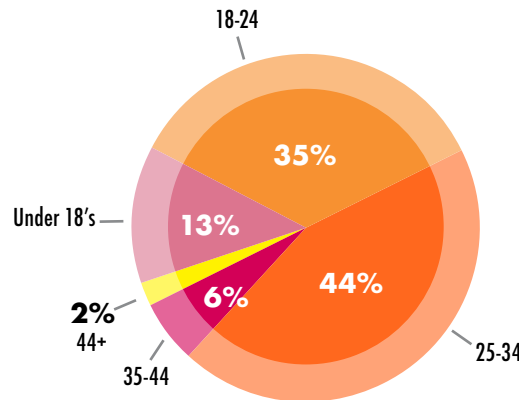


<1%

Gender diverse

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, we received 207 reports involving threats to share intimate images without an extortion component. These cases typically involve:

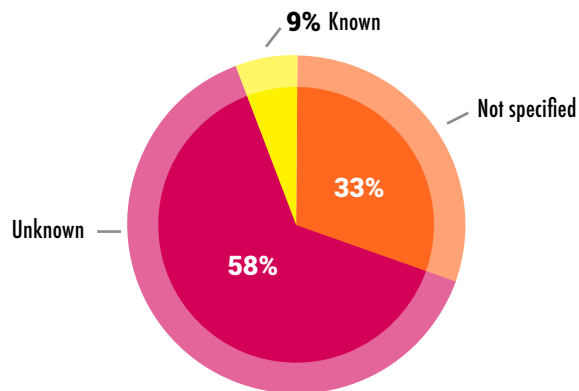
- Current or former intimate partners
- Acquaintances or people known to the victim

Of these cases, 184 were referred to An Garda Síochána at the reporter's request. These threats create real psychological distress for victims, even when images have not yet been shared publicly.

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

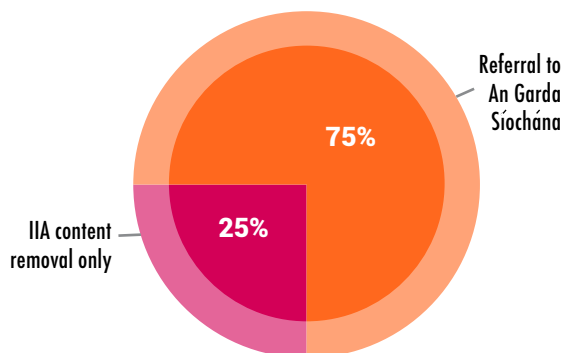
PERPETRATOR RELATIONSHIP

Across both shared images and threats to share:



OUTCOMES SOUGHT

When reporting to Irish Internet Hotline, 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 cases are now reported within the IIA section, reflecting the close operational relationship between these categories.

We received 136 reports of sexual extortion in 2025 — a 26% decrease from 185 reports in 2024, and a decrease from 146 in the year prior. Of these, 63 were referred to An Garda Síochána at the reporter’s request. 131 of these cases were classified as IIA; 5 were classified as financial scams.

Demographic Patterns

Our data continues to reveal a strong gender disparity: 93% of sexual extortion reports came from male victims. The 18-24 age group remains the most targeted, accounting for 50% of cases, followed by 25-34 (34%). Encouragingly, the proportion of victims under 18 fell from 15% to 8%, though this demographic remains a priority concern.

Social networking platforms remain the primary vector, as they allow scammers to build trust, move to private communications, and map victims’ social connections.

Response Effectiveness

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

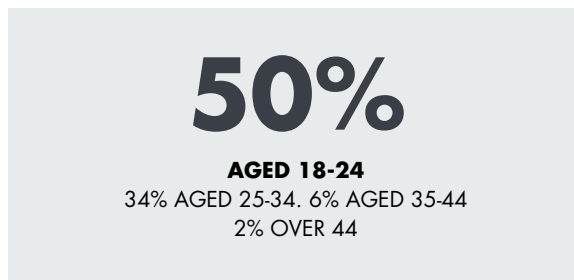
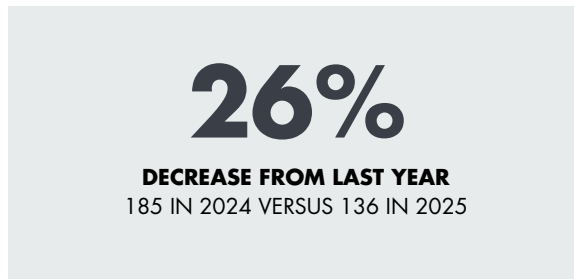
- Providing support and practical guidance to victims was critical
- Advising against payment often proved effective, as scammers typically moved on to other targets when ignored
- Getting social media accounts taken down can be an issue if extortion evidence is hidden within private messages

The 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, we have received reports involving Tinder, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, Ome.tv and Reddit. Most cases involve contact across multiple platforms.

Our analysis revealed:



Financial Scams

204 websites were found attempting to scam Irish residents



Irish Internet Hotline has seen a 37% increase in reports of suspected financial scams in 2025 with a 52% increase in determined financial scams targeting Irish residents

Know the Law



Financial scams are primarily 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

Key Information



It is an offence to dishonestly obtain property or services by deception, including through online means



Impersonating a legitimate financial institution, government agency, or business is illegal



Operating a financial service without proper authorisation from the Central Bank of Ireland is an offence



Creating fraudulent 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

Our Scope

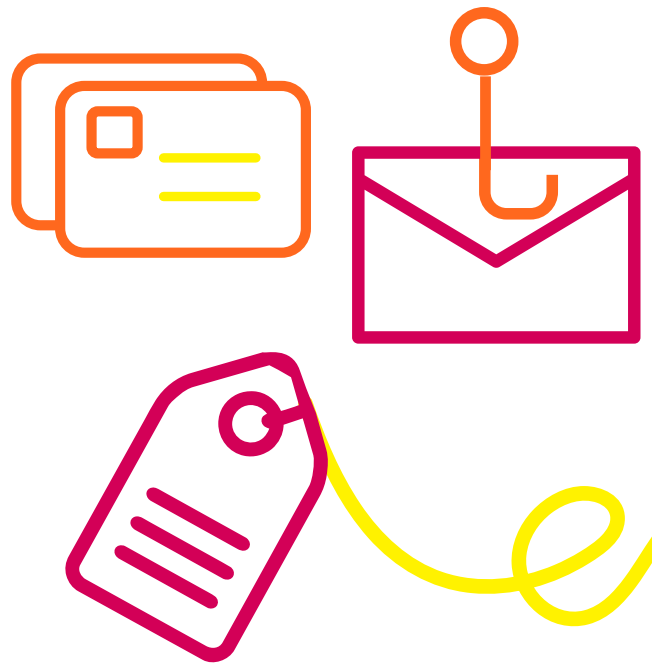
Irish Internet Hotline addresses financial scams with clear connections to Ireland: fraudulent websites impersonating Irish organisations, phishing targeting Irish residents, fake online shops, and unauthorised lending sites claiming Irish regulatory oversight. We handle scams using .ie domains, Irish business names, Irish contact details, or marketing directed at Irish consumers.

Overview

In 2025, we identified significant activity in financial scams targeting Irish residents:

- **37% increase** in reports of suspected financial scams compared to the previous year
- **52% increase** in confirmed financial scams targeting Irish residents
- **204 websites** identified as attempting to scam Irish residents
- **95% successful** removal rate of reported scam websites

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.



Types of Financial Scams that we Assess

Our 2025 analysis of confirmed financial scams revealed the following breakdown:

- **42% Phishing Sites:** Deceptive websites impersonating trusted organisations like Revenue, An Post, or Irish banks
- **30% Fake Online Shops:** Clone websites of legitimate businesses offering heavily discounted goods that consumers never receive
- **5% Loan Scams:** Fraudulent loan websites falsely claiming to be regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland
- **23% Other Scams:** Various other financial scam schemes

The Surge in Online Shopping Scams

The most significant continuing trend in 2025 is the growth in online shopping scams, which have risen from 15% of identified scams in 2023, to 24% in 2024, and now 30% in 2025. This makes it the fastest-rising category of financial fraud reported to Irish Internet Hotline over three consecutive years.

Behind every report is a real person. In 2025, the public submitted 591 reports of suspected financial scams to Irish Internet Hotline. Their experiences reveal how sophisticated and targeted these schemes have become. Reporters described fake loan websites that collected PPS numbers, ID documents, and upfront “processing fees” before disappearing. Irish businesses contacted Irish Internet Hotline after discovering their company names, addresses, and CRO registration numbers had been stolen and used to build convincing fake websites. Parents reported paying for products from sites impersonating well-known Irish retailers, only to find additional charges taken from their accounts with no way to make contact. Others described being drawn into investment schemes through social media and messaging apps, with reported individual losses reaching tens of thousands of euro.

Of the 204 confirmed scam websites, 99% were hosted outside Ireland, yet many used .ie domains and impersonated Irish institutions such as An Post, Revenue, and the Central Bank to appear legitimate.



Challenges in Removing Financial Scams

Despite Irish Internet Hotline's improved 95% success rate in removing financial scam websites in 2025, this work continues to involve navigating significant obstacles that impact our ability to protect Irish residents from online fraud.

International 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



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

Racism & Xenophobia

Irish Internet Hotline received 510 reports



**A decrease from 908 reports in 2024.
As in previous years, the vast majority did not meet
the legal threshold for illegality under Irish law**

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. However, the legislation as enacted was significantly narrowed from its original proposals, and its practical effect on addressing illegal content in online spaces has so far been limited



The 2024 Act provides for enhanced penalties where offences are motivated by hatred, though its application to online content remains largely untested

Key Information



The 1989 Act continues to address incitement to hatred, while the 2024 Act provides additional protections against hate-motivated crimes



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 applies enhanced sentencing under the Act, it must state which protected characteristic(s) formed the basis for its decision



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



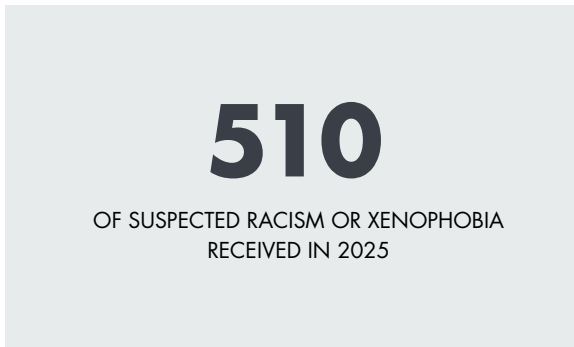
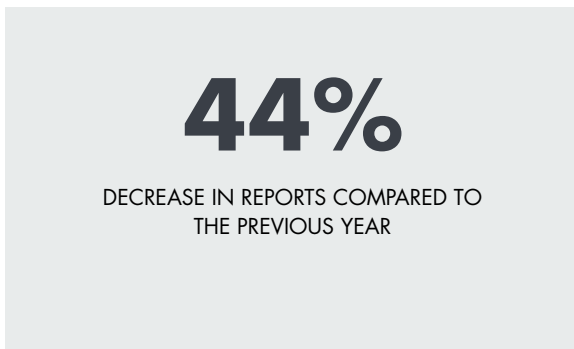
Reporting suspected illegal racist or xenophobic content to Irish Internet Hotline helps remove harmful material and creates a safer online environment for everyone in Ireland

Racism & Xenophobia Statistics & Findings

OVERVIEW

In 2025, Irish Internet Hotline received and processed reports of suspected racism and xenophobia content online.

Our analysis revealed:



REPORT ANALYSIS & TRENDS

General hate speech and xenophobic rhetoric was the most common theme, featuring in 63% of original reports. Reporters frequently described content as “racist,” “hateful,” or “xenophobic,” often in reference to social media posts and comment sections they felt crossed a line.

Threats of violence or incitement were also widespread, appearing in 43% of reporter comments. These ranged from explicit calls to harm individuals or groups to more indirect language that reporters perceived as encouraging hostility.

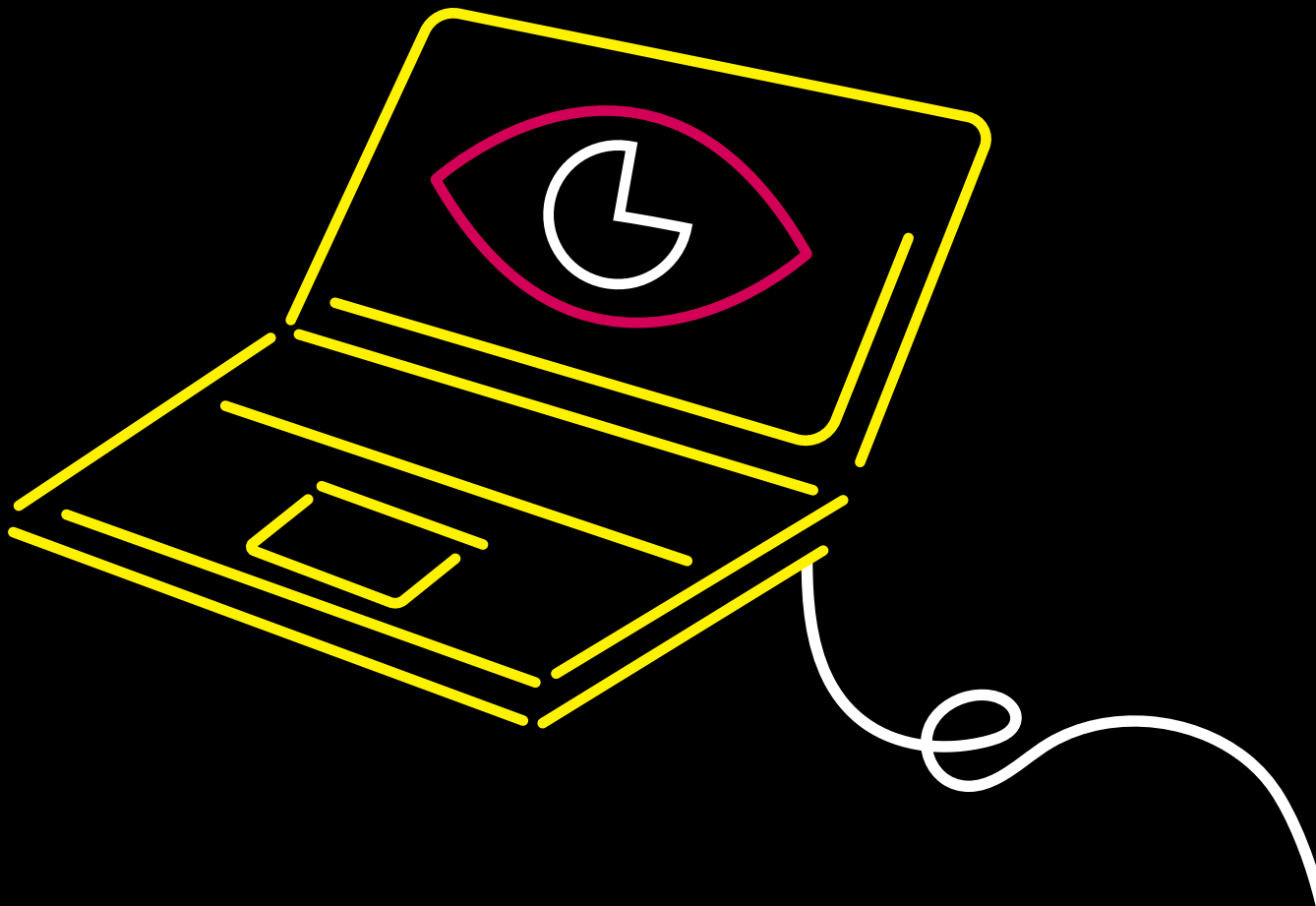
Antisemitic content appeared in 14% of reports, with references to the Holocaust, Nazi imagery, and “Heil Hitler” slogans recurring across platforms. Anti-immigration sentiment targeting refugees and asylum seekers featured in 11%, while anti-Black racism appeared in 8% and Islamophobic content in 5%. A smaller number of reports (2%) explicitly referenced far-right ideology, including the “great replacement” conspiracy theory.

One report flagged an emerging concern: the use of AI-generated imagery and voice to impersonate an Irish woman while promoting xenophobic content on TikTok. While an isolated report in 2025, it signals a trend Irish Internet Hotline will need to monitor as generative AI tools continue to be more accessible.

Reporting suspected illegal racist or xenophobic content to Irish Internet Hotline helps remove harmful material and creates a safer online environment for everyone in Ireland.

Partnerships

**Irish Internet Hotline collaborates
with key & emerging stakeholders
combat illegal online content**



**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, we have 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 international content removal and intelligence sharing
- Irish Safer Internet Centre: Collaboration with Webwise, ISPCC-Childline and NPC Primary creates a comprehensive approach to online safety

Digital Services Act: Trusted Flagger Status

In December 2025, Irish Internet Hotline applied for designation as a Trusted Flagger under the EU Digital Services Act (DSA). If granted, this designation will give Irish Internet Hotline’s notices to online platforms priority status for content assessment and removal, strengthening our ability to have illegal material acted on swiftly. The application is currently being assessed by Coimisiún na Meán.

Industry Support

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



Our Members

The work of Irish Internet Hotline is actively supported by 24 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 Irish Internet Hotline that are reviewed and assessed by Irish Internet Hotline 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 Irish Internet Hotline 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 Irish Internet Hotline. European Commission: The executive branch of the European Union which partially funds Irish Internet Hotline'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 Irish Internet Hotline, 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 Irish Internet Hotline 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.

Reporting takes just a minute but can make a lasting difference. Visit our secure and confidential web-reporting portal:





Reporting takes just a minute but can make a lasting difference.

Irish Internet Hotline is here to help. Visit:
www.hotline.ie/report



Scan the QR code below to visit our secure Visit our secure and confidential web-reporting portal :



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