

WWW.Hotline.ie - First Report : Summary

Main points of first hotline report (Nov 99 to June 2001)

Core details

- funded by industry and EU (about 50/50)
- focus on child pornography but actual complaints cover a wider range
- complaints from the public can be made by e mail, web site, lo call phone/fax, letter
- reports can be anonymous if desired
- general procedures overseen by IAB
- www.hotline.ie is one of 16 hotlines in 12 countries

Sample statistics

Period	Nov-99 Dec-99	Jan-00 Dec-00	Jan-01 Jun-01
Total complaints	16	378	277
Reported through website	10	217	224
Complaints about websites	12	309	253
Complaints about e mail	2	19	7
Complaints about child porn	14	302	251
Complaints about adult porn	2	10	6
Complaints which turned into general queries	0	26	13
Confirmed and detected cases of child porn	0	23	16
Confirmed and detected cases of child erotica	0	30	18
Reports forwarded to US tipline	0	20	15
Confirmed reports forwarded to Gardai	0	2	0

Main points of report

- there is a huge international dimension to the work of the hotline - INHOPE have a major coordination role
- only a tiny fraction of the reports about child porn are within our jurisdiction - these are forwarded as appropriate
- if illegal material is on an Irish server, Gardai are notified and they decide about prosecution
- tracing and tracking child porn (following a report) can be time-consuming and difficult
- issues about retaining material (inc child porn) for law enforcement purposes are still very much in the international melting pot
- staffing hotlines is a difficult challenge
- the IAB has been active in promoting new protocols between the Gardai and the hotline for dealing with complaints
- the overall Internet environment both in Ireland and abroad is still changing rapidly posing challenges for the new self-regulation structures
- more work needs to be done in raising the profile of www.hotline.ie
- there is no 1 to 1 relationship between reports received and action taken- most are outside the jurisdiction and many cannot be fully traced
- hotlines must be seen in context - they are but one of a range of tools being used to fight child porn - they do however represent a chance for users to respond to illegal material on the Internet