

Hotline.ie support 'Get online week'

54% of adults use the internet at least once a day



Hotline.ie announce during 'Get Online Week' that 54%* of adults in Ireland use the internet at least once a day according to exclusive Irish research carried out by the internet watchdog for illegal online activity. Of these daily users, 2 in 5 believe that the internet has become cleaner and safer in recent years. Hotline.ie who provide an anonymous service for internet users who encounter suspected illegal activity online such as child pornography or incitement to hatred have reported that confirmed cases of illegal activity have decreased dramatically since 2009. Commenting on this, Paul Durrant, Manager of Hotline.ie said:

*source: 1,000 adults in Ireland conducted by Behaviour and Attitudes of behalf of Hotline.ie

"Since 2009, confirmed cases of illegal activity reported to Hotline.ie have decreased by over 60% in spite of this high volume of daily internet users. This, coupled with the fact that 2 in 5 people find the internet cleaner now, suggests that the internet is a safer place than before. People should have no fear about getting online but we do ask that the public continue to report anything that they suspect to be illegal content because this kind of social responsibility is what is helping to combat offensive material online."

Dr Grainne Kirwan, Lecturer in Cyberpsychology at IADT said:

"More and more individuals are now accessing the Internet via mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets. As a result of this, the Internet is becoming less of a place that we 'go to' and more of a part of our everyday existence."

The research by Hotline.ie also revealed that 72% of adults in Ireland access the internet at least once a week. The highest rate of internet browsing was amongst the 16-24 year old bracket where 81% access the internet at least once a day while 71% of 25-34 year olds access the internet at least once a day. The lowest figure of internet browsing was amongst the 65+ bracket where only 9% use the internet once a day.

PHOTO CAPTION: Paul Durrant, Manager, Hotline.ie

///Background

Hotline.ie, run by the Internet Service Providers Association of Ireland ([ISPAI](#)) since November 1999, is part financed by the European Commission's Safer Internet Plus Programme. It is supervised by the Department of Justice, Office for Internet Safety (OIS), in cooperation with An Garda Síochána and is a member of [INHOPe](#), the International Network of Hotlines. Hotline.ie provides an anonymous facility for the public to report suspected illegal content encountered on the Internet, in a secure and confidential way. The primary focus of the Hotline is to combat Child Pornography by having it removed expeditiously from the Internet and alerting police so they may investigate. Other forms of illegal content and activities exist on the Internet and may be reported using this service.

Dr Grainne Kirwan is a lecturer in Cyberpsychology at IADT specialising in Forensic Cyberpsychology, the Psychology of Virtual Reality and Computer Mediated Communication. She holds a PhD Criminology from University College Dublin. 2006 and a MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology. University of Leicester. Grainne is the co-author of the publication: Kirwan, G.H. and Power, A. (2011). The Psychology of Cyber Crime: Concepts and Principles. Hershey, PA: Information Science Reference.

Get Online Week: 26th -30th March 2012. <http://www.getonlineweek.eu/>

For media enquiries please contact Christine Dobbin at christine.dobbin@merrionbd.ie or 01 685 3450.