

Press Release from www.hotline.ie director,

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Press www.hotline.ie launches updated website

The hotline handles reports about alleged Child Pornography on the Internet. The hotline received 671 reports up to June 2001 and has received an increasing number of reports since then.

It encourages Internet surfers in Ireland to report any instances of Child Pornography which are uncovered whilst surfing. The hotline reviews the reports and if the reported material is located in Ireland and likely to be illegal requests the Internet Service Provider to remove the material and reports the material to An Garda Siochana for investigation.

The new website has been designed to provide a wider range of information to Internet users who have been victim to online problems such as un-solicited adult emails, virus attacks or unexpected unpleasant website content.

Features of the new www.hotline.ie site:

- Relevant links on home page to main supporting organisations such as the Internet Service Provider Association of Ireland, Internet Advisory Board, EU Safer Internet Action Plan and the Association of Internet Hotline Providers in Europe.
- Rated with ICRA (Internet Content Rating Association)
- Complete restructuring of the reporting forms page
 - Online Reporting is now the more prominent and strongly encouraged option
 - Reduces the ease-of-access to other methods of reporting (phone, mail, fax, letter) which were reducing the effectiveness of the hotline to process reports in a timely manner.

There was an increasing volume of SPAM emails which have been simply forwarded to the hotline. These type of reports take a much longer time to process than more automated web-form reports and have the unfortunate side-effect of including all the scripting and sometimes viruses which were in the original email)

- Separate forms for Website Report, Newsgroup Report, Chat Room Report, Peer-to-Peer report, Unsolicited eMail Report and Miscellaneous Report reflecting the different questions required for each type of report
- More comprehensive and relevant links on links page separated into five sections (Irish, Online Safety, Inhope Hotline, International, and Link to Hotline)
- Easier access to the hotline logo for anyone who wants to link to the hotline website
- Information on anti-virus products and filtering software solutions has been added and updated.
- Advice for Parents and Children has now been updated to reflect the Internet Advisory Board (www.iab.ie) online advice so that only one consistent advisory message is being propagated
- All updated publications and press releases have been added to include (hotline report, code of practice, summaries, 1998 Child porn act, etc)
- UCE report form explains the problems of handling Adult SPAM before report is submitted.

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