



Hotline.ie reports success in efforts to stem Internet child abuse material

Embargoed until 14.00 p.m., Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Positive and encouraging trends which have emerged in the ongoing campaign against the forces that control online child sexual abuse images are highlighted in the Annual Report of the Hotline.ie service. This will be released by Dermot Ahern T.D., Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in Buswells Hotel, Dublin on Wednesday, June 24, at 2.00pm.

Firstly we take great pride in the fact that in 2008 Hotline.ie did not receive a single report about illegal child abuse images that was either hosted in or distributed from the Republic of Ireland. This means that Ireland's excellent record which goes back to the Hotline's foundation in 1999 remains unbroken.

Secondly, the Irish Internet using public are encountering less illegal content online and this is despite the fact that in 2008 Internet use jumped considerably with the continued strong growth in the number of people signing onto broadband. This comprehensive Report analyses the facts and figures behind these welcome trends and their significance in the on-going campaign to stem criminal misuse of the Internet including a success in which the Hotline was instrumental in getting a network of child sexual abuse websites closed down.

The headline statistics are as follows:

1966 reports processed in 2008. This is 24% down from 2007.
497 were determined as illegal under Irish law. This is over 25% of the total.
443 were confirmed as child pornography. This is a 38% decrease from 2007.
6 referred to child trafficking
48 were other illegal issues such as racism, financial scams, etc.

None of the illegal child pornography was traced to Ireland.
2008 saw a considerable switch in the prominent locations where illegal content was hosted.

Further details will be presented at the launch event.

Hotline.ie is a facility which enables the public to anonymously report material on the Internet which they suspect may be illegal so that action may be taken to have it removed. The Hotline which is partially funded by the European Commission Safer Internet Programme is supported by the non profit, Internet

PRESS RELEASE



Service Providers Association of Ireland. A priority of the Hotline is to keep child pornography and other illegal content off ISPai members' Internet facilities.

In the Report Hotline.ie General Manager Paul Durrant emphasises that the campaign to combat online child abuse material is a global one and pays tribute to the work done in that regard by hotlines, law enforcement and ISPs in other countries. The Report also acknowledges the support Hotline.ie receives from the ISPai and invites new entrants to the Irish Internet hosting and access market along with those ISPs who are not members to join the ISPai and support the vital service that the Hotline provides.

Despite all the positive trends the Hotline Report asserts without reservation that the public must not relax its guard against the paedophiles who exchange child abuse materials online. Constant vigilance is essential and suspected illegal content must not be ignored but reported to the Hotline.

The full report will be published online at:

www.hotline.ie/annualreport

After it has been announced by the Minister shortly after 14:15 hrs. on Wednesday 24th June

<ENDS>

REPORT LAUNCH:

WHERE: Buswells Hotel, (Georgian Suite), Molesworth Street, Dublin 2

WHEN: 2:00 p.m., Wednesday 24th June 2009