



## Press Release

28<sup>th</sup> May 2014

**Source: Internet Service Providers Association of Ireland**

*Note: The full Annual Report covering January to December 2013 is available online at [www.hotline.ie/2013](http://www.hotline.ie/2013)*

### **Child Sexual Abuse Material traced to servers in Ireland on the rise**

On 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014 ISPAI Hotline.ie Service made public its Annual Report covering January to December 2013 – An Analysis of Reported Illegal Content on the Internet - during the event “Zero Tolerance to Child Sexual Abuse Online”.

The opening address was delivered by Frances Fitzgerald T.D., Minister for Justice and Equality. On this occasion the Minister said “The work of Hotline.ie contributes to the empowerment of citizens by providing a means to report illegal material and in particular Child Sexual Abuse Content on the Internet and to have it dealt with appropriately. This report also reflects the international nature of the important work in this whole area.”

In its 14 years of activity ISPAI Hotline.ie Service, received around 30,000 reports and up to 2009 there were no cases of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) traced to servers here in the Republic of Ireland.

In the four years 2009-2012 Hotline.ie recorded 11 cases of CSAM however in 2013 alone there were 7 cases. This is the highest number so far in one year.

5 out of the 7 cases of Child Sexual Abuse Material traced to Ireland in 2013 were Cloud related. These cases of abuse affected one operator’s cloud servers here which are managed from the USA. While not a member of ISPAI, Hotline.ie took action and succeeded, in cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies, to have the content removed from the Internet.

The reality is that the situation is becoming more complex with the advent of Cloud services and the fact that these straddle jurisdictions, not just adjacent countries but around the globe. Even so Ireland has an excellent record in comparison to most other developed European countries.

According to Paul Durrant, CEO of ISPAI and Manager of Hotline.ie, another trend identified through analysis of the assessments conducted by Hotline.ie is that “paedophiles are constantly trying to find new ways to avoid detection. We are concerned that peer-to-peer services are increasingly being abused and I would like to use the opportunity to appeal to those using these services in a legitimate way to report, using the *anonymous* Hotline.ie Service, if they encounter filenames suggesting or referring to images / videos of Child Sexual Abuse Material”.

Furthermore, throughout 2013 Hotline.ie assessed as CSAM, under Irish Law, 128 Cases which were traced and forwarded to the appropriate jurisdiction for action. The top 3 countries to which Hotline.ie forwarded CSAM reports for action and investigation were USA (48), The Netherlands (18) and Russia (16).



To capitalize on our national efforts where Illegal content is traced by ISPAI Hotline.ie Service to outside the Irish jurisdiction, Hotline.ie is a founding member of INHOPE – International Association of Internet Hotlines – this provides a network of Internet Hotlines which cooperate to swiftly exchange reports to have CSAM removed from the Internet.

The event was also attended by Russell Chadwick - Executive Director at INHOPE - who gave a presentation on International Cooperation between Internet Hotlines in combating CSAM and Oisin Byrne - Managing Director at iReach Market Research – who presented the key findings of a nationwide public survey concerning Parental Attitudes to Children Online.

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