



children's charities' coalition on internet safety

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2, Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

14th June, 2013

Dear Home Secretary,

The appalling revelations in the murder trials of Stuart Hazell and Mark Bridger appear, rightly, to have sparked a renewed determination to see what more can be done to rid the internet of the scourge of child abuse images and related offending.

Prime Minister David Cameron called on internet companies to use their extraordinary technical abilities to root out images of child abuse. We note that the Rt Hon Maria Miller MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, is convening a meeting with internet industry leaders on 18th June specifically to discuss this matter. We wish them every success.

However, we think there is another dimension to policy in this space which also needs to be reviewed. That relates to matters which fall more naturally into your portfolio. For that reason the signatories shown below, all CEOs or equivalent of the children's charities that make up the UK's Children's Charities' Coalition on Internet Safety, are writing to ask if we could meet with you to air our concerns and to suggest additional strategies.

We would like to discuss, in particular, UK law enforcement agencies' lack of time and capacity to deal with the high number of individuals who are known to the police to have engaged in downloading or exchanging child abuse images. Peter Davies, CEO of CEOP, acknowledged on the ITN 10 o'clock News on 28th May there were some 50,000-60,000 individuals like that in Britain and UK law enforcement, the courts and penal system simply cannot deal with such a large number of cases.

We recognise the police have been saying for some time that arrests are only ever going to be part of the solution. However, this official acknowledgement of the operational realities raises the question of quite what we are going to do to ameliorate the position?

We have some ideas that we believe will make a material contribution to tackling this problem and we would very much like to talk to you about them. For example, could splash pages or prominent messages be deployed more widely by search engines to discourage early

or first time searches for abusive images? What scope is there for expanding action on Peer2Peer networks?

Many thanks for your attention and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Signatures of all the member organizations whose logos are displayed above

For further correspondence in relation to this letter please contact:

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