



children's charities' coalition on internet safety
10 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5DG

The Rt Hon Greg Clarke MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London SW1 0ET

10th March, 2017

Dear Secretary of State,

Following the recent debate in the House of Lords on IPTV piracy we are writing to say we welcome the Government's renewed interest in this matter via the "Call for Views" that has been made.

There has been a major increase in, for example, the sale of IPTV enabled set top boxes, often sold through conventional retailers such as Argos and Amazon. Aside from the risks the growth of IP infringing behaviours pose to creative industries they also raise significant child protection concerns.

Children's organizations have carried out a lot of research into the ways pirates have operated on the Internet. The same practices are beginning to migrate into the IPTV space. They are not the sort of environments children should be around. There are no age checks at the door. Right next to an ad for a film full of cartoon characters there will often be horrific images promoting extremely violent or pornographic items which in turn will be next to ads placed by drug dealers. Then there are the scammers and malware artists who just want you, your son or daughter to click on a link or download something nasty which gets onto their computer or other device and maybe from there into the entire home network where it could do considerable damage both financial and in terms of privacy.

For all these reasons, and acknowledging that this has arisen rather late in the legislative process, we urge you to find a way to amend the Digital Economy Bill to facilitate an early change to legislation so Government can move quickly to implement any changes that may be necessary, perhaps in the form of statutory guidance or regulations, following an assessment of responses to the Call for Views.

Yours sincerely,

John Carr OBE
Secretary

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