



# hotline.ie

## **Annual Report: ISPAI Hotline.ie Service**

Covering the period January 31<sup>st</sup> 2008 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008.

### **Introduction**

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This is the annual report of the ISPAI Hotline.ie service, which was established in November 1999 to combat illegal content, especially child pornography, existing on the Internet.

The full report covering the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 is available online at:

<http://www.hotline.ie/annualreport>

### **Summary 2008 Data**

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- **1966** Reports processed by the Hotline in 2008
- **497** Unique Reports determined as illegal under Irish law which is 25% of the total amount of reports.

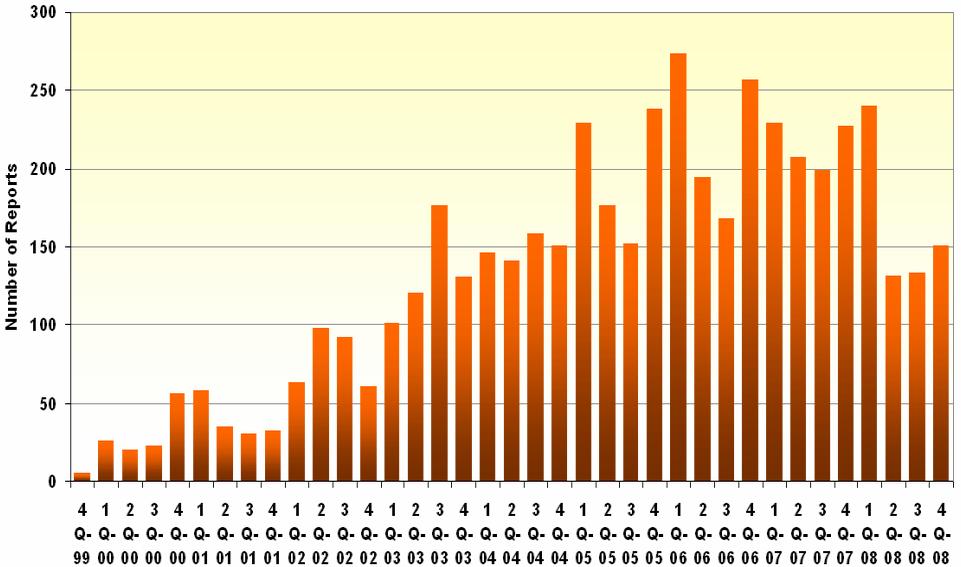
The summary breakdown is as follows:

- 443** referred to Child Pornography
- 6** referred to Child Trafficking
- 48** referred to other illegal issues  
e.g. Financial Scams & Racism

## Reporting Level

In the period from 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2008 the Hotline processed 1,966 reports of suspected illegal content. Hotline.ie has now dealt with some 14,802 reports since it was established in November 1999.

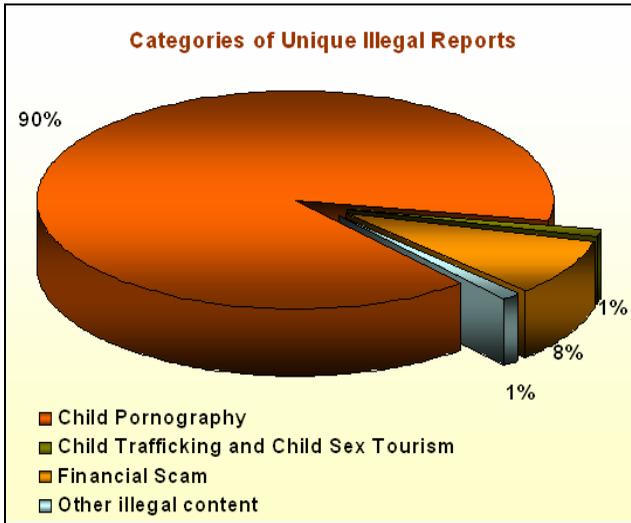
### Average Number of Reports Processed per Month by Quarter Year



## Suspicion and Determination

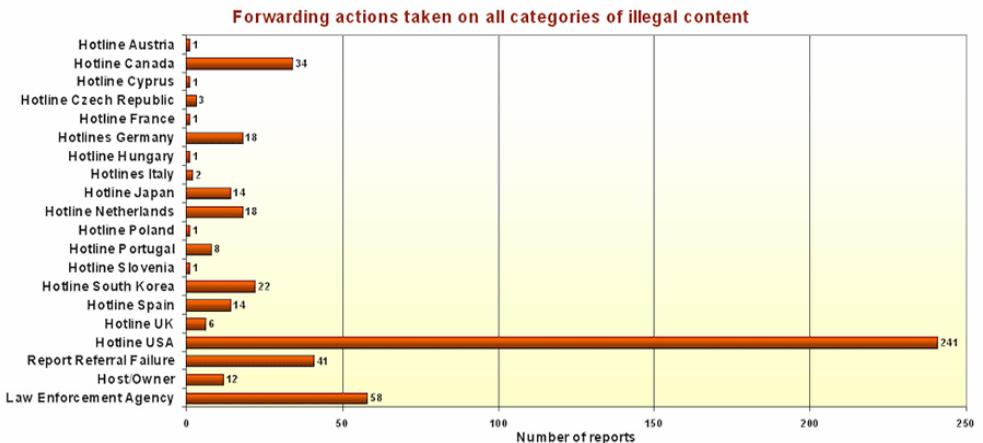
In 2008, the suspicion given or implied by reporters in 1,537 reports was child pornography. Of these 1,537 reports, the Hotline analysts determined that 476 were indeed child pornography.

**None of the reports assessed by the Hotline as illegal under the Irish Child Trafficking and Pornography Act (1998) was hosted in or distributed from the Republic of Ireland.**



## Forwarding of Reports

Most of the reports determined as probably illegal under Irish Law were traced as apparently located in the USA. When no INHOPE member hotline exists in a country to which content is traced, reports are passed on to An Garda Síochána, who in turn liaise with international police organisations, such as Interpol and Europol.



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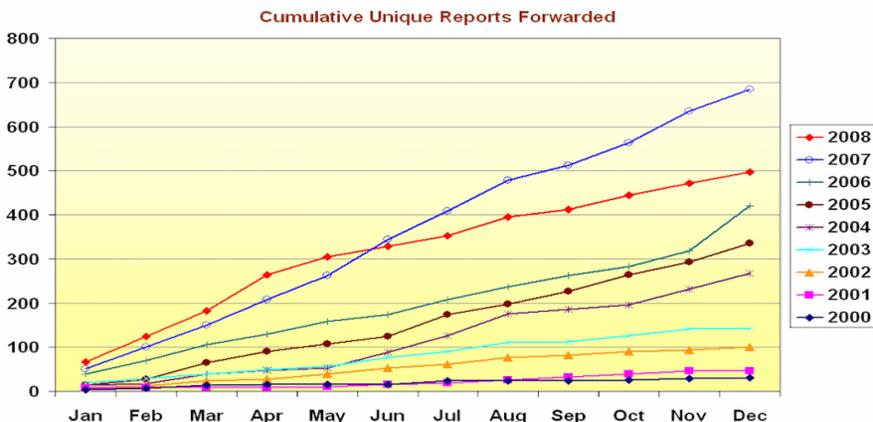


Office for  
Internet Safety  
An Oifig Sábháilteachais Míne



## Trend Analysis

Of great significance is the reduction in the total amount of illegal material detected which can then be forwarded to other jurisdictions so it can be taken down.



## Conclusions

As Internet subscriptions continue to rise and the demand for always-on broadband intensifies it is obvious that more Irish people than ever before, especially children and youths are clicking online. While for most users the experience will be positive the chances are that a small number of Internet surfers will accidentally discover a certain amount of illegal content. Such material represents only a minuscule percentage of all Internet content and the likelihood of users, especially young users, coming across it accidentally is extremely low. However, action is necessary to prevent his material proliferating and, especially in the case of child pornography, ISPAI members through the Hotline strive to take such material out of circulation. It is therefore vital that users appreciate the necessity of reporting and where they may make such reports.

Public awareness of the Hotline and their vigilance is central to keeping up the attack on illegal content and, in the case of child pornography, helps to prevent the sexual exploitation of children. It is vital that the public do not ignore suspected illegal content they encounter or anything that appears to advertise or give direction as to where child pornography exists on the Internet but report it to the Hotline.

A very worrying trend revealed by the Hotline Content Analysts is the severity of much of the child pornography content reported. Despite the fall in reports this year, a high proportion of those confirmed as child pornography are in the highest severity categories, and has not fallen from the proportion observed in 2006 and 2007.

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**Report illegal content to: [www.hotline.ie](http://www.hotline.ie)**

**Contact details:**

**Postal address:** ISPAI Hotline.ie Service, Unit 24 Sandford Office Park, Dublin 18

**Email:** [info@hotline.ie](mailto:info@hotline.ie) **Telephone:** 1890 610710 **Fax:** +353 1 2945282