

Overview of the Fourth Report of the ISPAI www.hotline.ie Service

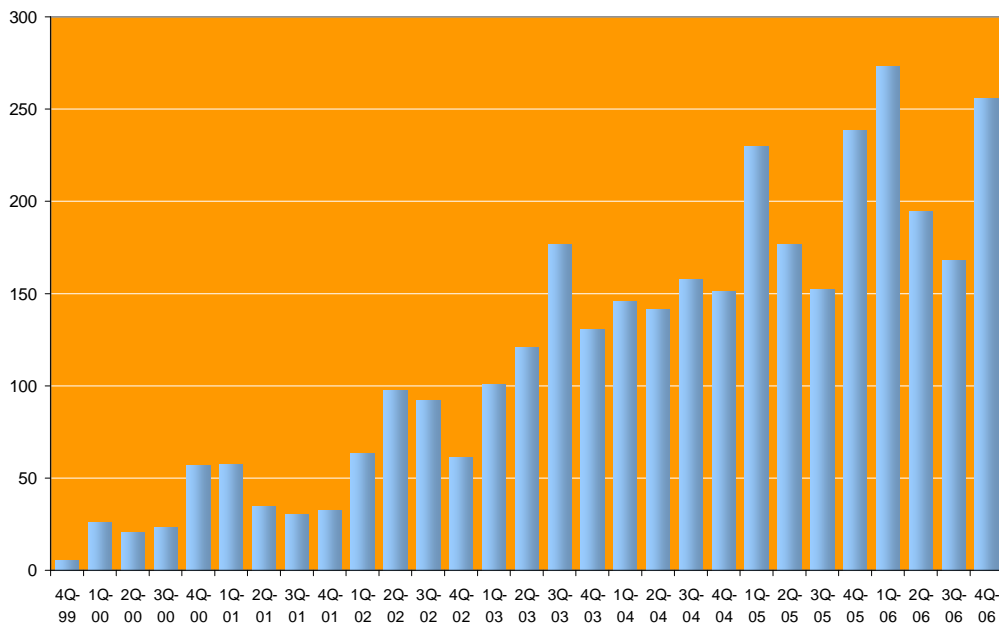
Full report online at www.hotline.ie/report2006

INTRODUCTION

This is the 4th report of the ISPAI www.hotline.ie service which was established in November 1999 to combat illegal content, especially child pornography, existing on the Internet. The full report covering period from 1st January to 31st December 2006 is available online at www.hotline.ie/report2006.

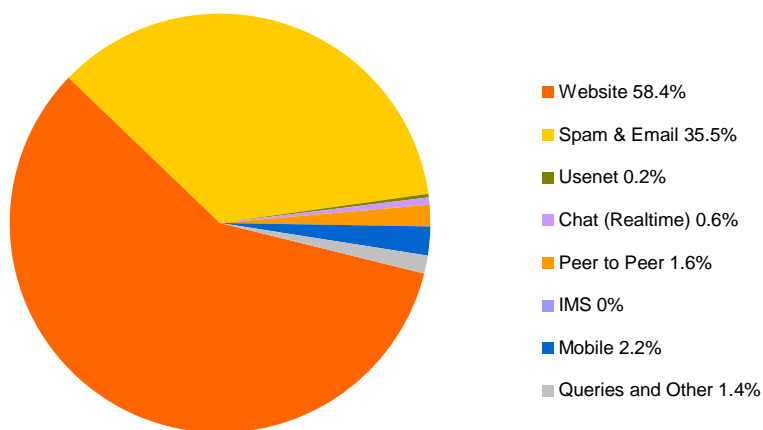
REPORTING LEVEL

In the period from 1st January 2006 to 31st December 2006 the Hotline processed 2,677 reports. This is an increase of 12% on the 2,390 reports received in 2005. Since its establishment the Hotline has dealt with some 10,246 reports.



INTERNET SERVICE TO WHICH REPORTS REFERRED

In 2006 the Hotline received 1563 reports in relation to websites, which increased by 44% in comparison to 2005. Spam e-mails are the second most reported Internet service (950 reports).



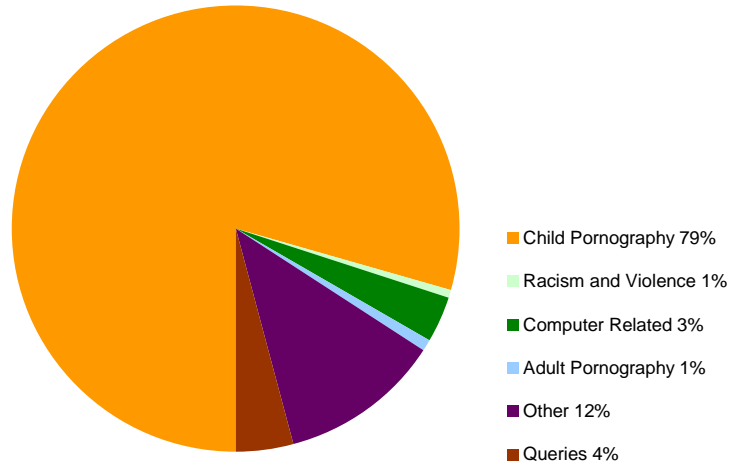
In the year the Hotline only received 44 reports in relation to peer to peer (P2P) services. These services are increasingly popular among teenagers for exchanging music. The Hotline and International Law Enforcement experience is that these services are often used by those sharing illegal material. Given these facts it is of concern that the number of P2P reports received remained the same as the previous year.

ISPAI Members in 2006 (not in any particular order)



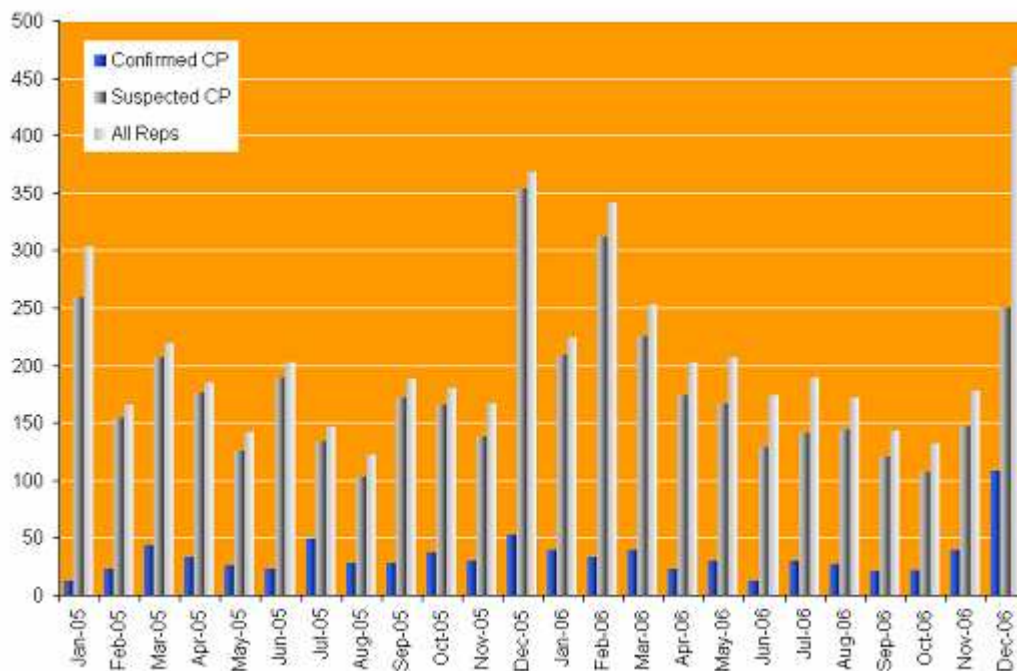
SUSPICION AND DETERMINATION

In 79% reports submitted the suspicion given or implied was child pornography. Of these 2125 reports, the Hotline analysts determined that 423 (including duplicates) were probably illegal under the Irish Child Trafficking and Pornography Act (1998).



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.

571 reports were assessed as adult pornography. 39 reports (1%) were determined as falling within the illegal “computer related” and “racism or incitement to violence” categories. Just under 40% of reports were determined as referring to other material that was assessed as “not illegal” but not specifically adult pornography. About half of these referred to spam which while suggestive did not link to illegal content and were therefore classified as “not illegal”.

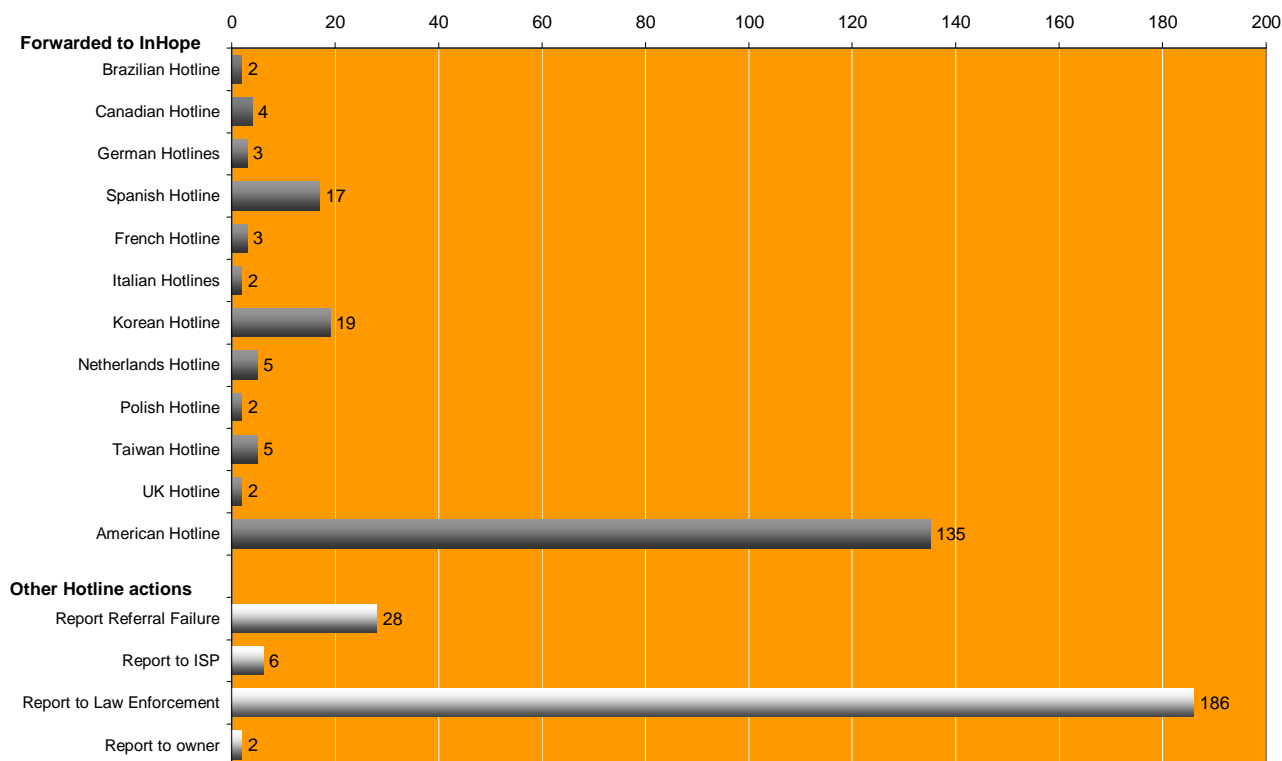


In approximately 19% of all reports (including duplicates), the Hotline determination agreed with the suspicion specified in reports.

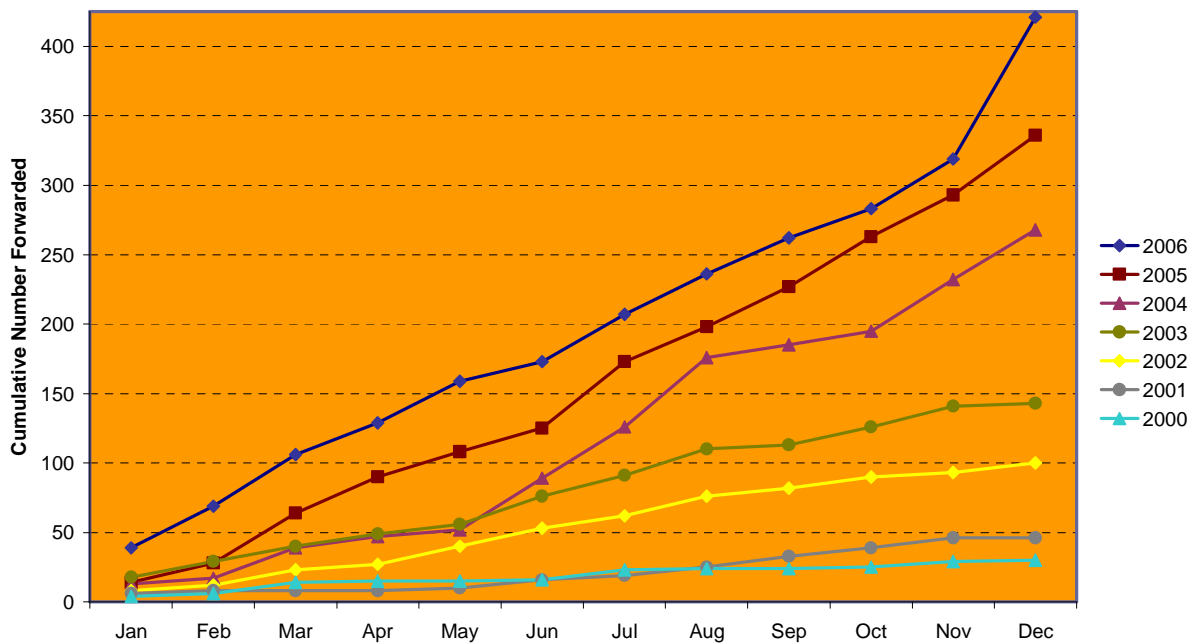


FORWARDING OF REPORTS

In 2006 there were 421 unique illegal reports. These are the reports on which the Hotline can take action. As none were traced to Ireland, the procedures for issuing of Garda notification and an ISP take down notice were never invoked. All 421 had to be forwarded to foreign jurisdictions. In 47% (199) cases the content could be rapidly forwarded to INHOPE Hotlines for action in their countries. 44% (186) of the reports were forwarded to Law Enforcement as the material appeared to be hosted in a country where currently no INHOPE Hotline exists.



TREND ANALYSIS



From the graph on the previous page it can be seen how the workload of the Hotline has increased year on year. In 2006 the absolute number of cases where content was confirmed to be probably illegal tracked well above that of previous years. The average number of reports received per month over 2006 was 223/month. The average number of confirmed unique illegal reports, that is reports on which forwarding actions can be taken, was 35/month.

CONCLUSIONS

The ISPAI www.hotline.ie service was established to provide a secure and confidential environment where the public can anonymously report potentially illegal material encountered on the Internet. It would appear that Hotline visibility events and promotion of Internet safety awareness has assisted Internet users become more aware of the Hotline service and to submit reports to it in increasing numbers.

There have been no cases where the Hotline received reports from either the public or other INHOPE Hotlines where the content, assessed as probably illegal child pornography, was found to be hosted in or distributed from Ireland.

The services provided by the INHOPE Association are highly valued by www.hotline.ie. INHOPE facilitates cooperation between Hotlines in responding to illegal use and content on the Internet. INHOPE membership requires Hotlines to pass a rigorous approval process. In this highly sensitive area, INHOPE forges the necessary trust between independent Hotlines to exchange reports, so swift action to combat illegal material online can occur across international borders. Almost half of the actionable reports were dealt with through this channel in 2006.

The Hotline is also indebted to the support given to it by An Garda Síochána. They have accepted 186 actionable reports of illegal content traced to countries that do not have an INHOPE approved Hotline. These have been forwarded through Interpol so the illegal Internet content may be brought to the attention of law enforcement in those countries.

The Hotline is run by the Internet Service Providers Association of Ireland whose membership adheres to the ISPAI codes of practice and ethics for the self-regulation of the ISP industry in Ireland. The Hotline currently receives 50% of allowable operating costs from the European Commission Safer Internet Programme.

This Hotline service could not function without public support. The Hotline therefore requests the public to continue reporting suspected illegal content encountered on Internet services so action may be taken to have it removed.

SUMMARY 2006 DATA

2677 total reports of suspected illegal content including derived reports

2125 reports citing Child Pornography as the suspicion

429 assessed as illegal

421 unique illegal actionable reports (after removal of duplicates)

199 forwarded to INHOPE Hotlines

186 forwarded to Law Enforcement

