

Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online – 2014 Reporting Form

UK

Policy Target No. 1

Enhancing efforts to identify victims and ensuring that they receive the necessary assistance, support and protection.

Operational Goal: Increase the number of identified victims in the International Child Sexual Exploitation images database (ICSE database) managed by INTERPOL by at least 10% yearly.

A) Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report

A high priority for the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) is to increase the number of identified victims in child sexual abuse images. The NCA has recently enhanced its dedicated victim identification (VID) resource which is embedded within its specialist Child Exploitation Command, bringing together a number of specialist services to provide a robust and holistic UK response to this crime.

The VID team has worked closely with INTERPOL to increase the number of identified victims in the ICSE database. The number of uploads has increased by 160% since December 2012 when the UK uploaded its first set of identified images to the ICSE database.

This has been achieved as a direct result of resource being dedicated by the NCA to train an increased number of its officers to carry out this important function, recognising its impact on enhancing global law enforcement efforts to identify victims through improved coordination.

The NCA has also disseminated the ICSE hash sets to every UK police force and subsequent updates are provided each month. This allows UK police forces to cross-reference hash sets relating to their investigations against the ICSE database to improve the efficiency of those investigations and improve their ability to identify new victims.

In the 2013 report, the NCA undertook to train specialist officers in all local UK police forces in the use of Netclean Digital Investigator which it successfully achieved last year. This software is provided free to law enforcement by Netclean. It is an image analysis tool that highlights images that are most likely to hold clues to first generation images,

thereby enhancing efforts to safeguard and protect unidentified victims.

The combined capabilities of the ICSE database and the Netclean Digital Investigator has resulted in greater efficiency in the time taken by UK investigators analysing child abuse material and also has provided the investigators with additional skills to improve their ability to analyse images and identify victims.

The 2013 report also referred to the UK's plans to develop a national child abuse image database (CAID). In July 2013 the UK Prime Minister formally announced the creation of this database and requested the UK Home Office establish a project to oversee its creation and ensure its implementation, in pilot form, by the end of 2014. Project CAID will deliver a single, secure national database which will be accessible to the NCA and all UK local police forces, to increase UK law enforcement's ability to identify and safeguard the victims in the images. The CAID will categorise the images, increasing the efficiency of child abuse investigations and prosecutions in the UK. Critically, it will enable law enforcement to focus more resource on the identification of unidentified victims.

Finally the 2013 report referred to the NCA's commission of research from the University of Birmingham into recovery outcomes for victims and how the NCA can further improve its services and make its approach to child sexual abuse investigations even more victim centred. This research has commenced and is specifically exploring the effect that technology has on the impact of victims of child sexual abuse. As part of the research, young people who have been sexually victimised will be interviewed. Victims will also be completing psychometric questionnaires which will measure impact on various scales. Professionals working with victims will also be interviewed. The project is due to be completed in summer 2015.

B) Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance

Submissions of images of unidentified victims from UK police forces to the NCA's VID team almost doubled in 12 months ending April 2014. These submissions allow the NCA's specialist VID officers to carry out further investigations in an effort to identify the victim(s). This increase demonstrates the improved communication between the NCA and local officers as a direct result of the effort the NCA has placed on supporting local police forces over the last year.

The NCA has successfully delivered image analysis and child sexual abuse investigation training to all UK police forces over the last year, plus more detailed bespoke victim identification training to two police forces upon their request.

The use of specialist software to assist local investigators in identifying child victims

from digital images has risen in the UK over the last year. An increasing number of police forces are using specialist software to enhance their efforts to identify victims than in the previous year.

In addition to the work with Netclean detailed in 1.A above, throughout the last year the NCA has continued to work with other companies to influence the development of new products for law enforcement use. In particular, products that can improve the capture of data shared on web sites known to share child sexual abuse imagery, in order to identify new victims.

Over the last year, the NCA has continued to work collaboratively within the global Specialist Crimes Against Children VID network disseminating referrals to the relevant country where that victim is thought to be located.

C) Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up

The NCA will continue to dedicate resource to working with national and international law enforcement and other key partners to identify victims. It will continue its submissions to the ICSE database which will now include images of unidentified children. It will also ensure that all UK local police forces continue to have access to the most up to date hash set from the ICSE database, providing monthly updates.

The NCA will also continue to provide specialist victim identification advice to local UK police officers upon request or, on the submission of a digital intelligence product to the VID team, an identification service.

Last year the UK agreed to participate in EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats) which is the European programme for crime fighting from 2014–2017 and is supported by Europol, Interpol, Cepol and Eurojust. The NCA is coordinating the UK's input into this fight against child sexual exploitation online, delivered through seven strategic goals with 22 operational actions. The work of EMPACT has only recently commenced and progress is yet to be reported by each of the 22 participating European countries. However the NCA will work throughout the coming year to ensure that the UK provides a robust input into the relevant operational activity. From a victim identification perspective this is Operational Activity 2.1 – the development of victim identification function within Europol's EC3 to serve the Member State; and Operational Activity 2.3 - to promote the Member State establishing repositories of child sexual exploitation images in country and linking into ICSE.

Throughout the coming year, the UK's Home Office will continue to deliver Project CAID, as detailed in 1.A above. This is due to be implemented, in pilot form, by the end of 2014.

Policy Target No. 2

Enhancing efforts to investigate cases of child sexual abuse online and to identify and prosecute offenders.

Operational Goal: Establish the necessary framework for the criminalization of child sexual abuse online and the effective prosecution of offenders, with the objective of enhancing efforts to investigate and prosecute offenders.

A) Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report

The UK has a comprehensive legal regime relating to child sexual exploitation and abuse. It has some of the toughest powers in the world to deal with sex offenders. The laws detailed in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 are written and interpreted to address offences committed both online or offline. Section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 covers the possession of indecent images of children including those held on any computer, any storage device, hand held device etc. The Protection of Children Act 1978 outlaws publishing, possession with intent to supply, making taking and distribution of indecent images of children.

The UK is one of only 19 countries in the world who has a Sex Offenders Register. Of those only seven – including the UK - can lawfully share information with others regarding transnational child sex offenders.

Throughout the last year, the UK government and law enforcement have continued to work together to ensure that the country has the strongest possible powers to enhance efforts to investigate and prosecute offenders. Its approach is set out in the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy that sets the UK's national response to dealing with threats from serious and organised crime, including child sexual exploitation.

B) Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance

As part of ongoing work by the UK government to look at how its police and other agencies can better identify and deal with sexual offending, a raft of measures have been introduced over the last year to strengthen and enhance UK legislation and its law enforcement's response to child sexual exploitation and abuse – both online and offline.

From April 2014 new sexual offences sentencing guidelines were introduced in the UK to strengthen efforts to prosecute offenders. The new sentencing guidelines changed the way that offences involving indecent images of children are investigated by reducing the

number of image levels from five to three.

In October 2013 the UK government announced new measures to give greater powers to law enforcement to restrict the activities of anyone they judge to pose a risk of sexual harm to children and adults, even if they have never been convicted. The two new orders – the Sexual Harm Prevention Order and the Sexual Risk Order - will replace existing powers and the threshold for risk will be lowered to cover any case of sexual harm, not just cases of serious sexual harm as was previously the case. The orders will also cover anyone convicted or cautioned for a sexual or violent offence overseas and can be applied to any individual who poses a risk in the UK or abroad. The proposals are currently going through Parliament as part of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill.

In June 2014 the UK government also announced proposals to make a criminal offence of the possession and creation of written documents that contain practical advice on how to commit sexual offences against children. The proposals, with a maximum penalty of three years in prison, are currently going through Parliament as part of the Serious Crime Bill.

In October 2013 the UK government established the National Crime Agency (NCA) to lead the country's fight to cut serious and organised crime. The existing Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) became a dedicated Command within the NCA, providing it with the ability to draw upon the wider resources of the NCA. The NCA's CEOP Command is now better positioned than ever to do more ground breaking activity to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse. Furthermore, the NCA has been given a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This means that all NCA officers, not just those directly involved in child abuse investigations, have a legal duty to safeguard and promote child welfare. All officers are also given mandatory child protection training. Since transitioning into the NCA, the CEOP Command has been able to place even more resource into pursuing offenders and has led, supported and coordinated a number of successful national and international operations.

Working alongside the NCA, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) – a forum for the UK's chief police officers to share ideas and best practice and coordinate resources – has, over the last year, further improved the readiness of local police forces to combat this crime area. Through the implementation of the ACPO Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan, good progress has been made to: set minimum standards for policing in this crime area; identify measures to increase awareness of child sexual exploitation amongst front line officers; and ensure that officers have the appropriate support and training to undertake this type of complex investigation.

All this effort at both a strategic and operational level demonstrates a significant national focus on further improving the UK's legislative framework and law enforcement response to combating online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

C) *Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up*

Throughout the coming year, the UK government and law enforcement will continue to work together to ensure that it has the strongest possible powers to further enhance its efforts to investigate and prosecute offenders. It is envisaged that the new legislation relating to Sexual Harm and Risk Orders and written advice documents will be enacted subject to the will of Parliament.

The NCA, ACPO and local forces will continue to work together to coordinate and further strengthen UK's law enforcement response to online child sexual exploitation. The NCA leads a recently formed Strategic Governance Group to provide national coordination, direction and oversight and identify and fill gaps in the UK's response. This multi-agency group will bring together all interested parties to build on the successes already achieved over the last year. This will include the development and launch of a Strategic Action Plan and the establishment of multi-agency Threat Groups to coordinate the national response to two specific threat areas - indecent images of children (IIOC) and online child sexual exploitation (OCSE). This action plan will complement the existing ACPO Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan and incorporate national initiatives that are already underway to avoid any duplication in effort and coordinate all relevant national activity.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has recently undertaken a review of police forces' in England and Wales regarding their online capability and capacity. Its findings are due to be published later in 2014 and will set out a series of recommendations to further enhance UK law enforcement's response to this crime area. The implementation of these recommendations will be assigned accordingly to the relevant agency and monitored to ensure implementation. Any relevant actions will be incorporated into the NCA's Strategic Action Plan to ensure national coordination.

Operational Goal: Improve the joint efforts of law enforcement authorities across Global Alliance countries to investigate and prosecute child sexual abuse online.

A) *Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report*

Throughout the last year, the UK has continued to be a global leader in the efforts to improve international law enforcement cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse online.

The UK is a founder member of the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) – an international alliance of 13 law enforcement agencies working together to prevent and deter online child abuse and other forms of transnational child sexual exploitation. The NCA represents the UK on the VGT and continues to work proactively to identify

opportunities for improvement in law enforcement coordination and liaison. It also instigates and participates in VGT led operations as required.

B) Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance

Throughout the last year the UK has continued to be a leader in coordinating and leading global investigations.

A significant example of this is Operation Endeavour, a VGT led operation, instigated by the NCA. In January 2014 it was announced that an organised crime group which facilitated the live streaming of child sexual abuse to order in the Philippines had been dismantled after a lengthy and complex joint investigation by the NCA, the Australian Federal Police and the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The Operation has resulted in (to date):

- 15 children identified and safeguarded from sexual abuse in the Philippines aged between 6-15 years
- 29 international arrests across 12 countries
- 17 arrests within the UK
- Five convictions within the UK with nine investigations still ongoing.

Over the last year the UK has also continued to play a leading role within the G8 in the provision of strategic direction to advance efforts to combat child sexual exploitation amongst G8 members and partners. In October 2013 the UK and US jointly organised a G8 Global Symposium on Preventing the International Sexual Exploitation of Children (Transnational Child Sex Offenders). Hosted in the UK, the symposium provided an opportunity to discuss strategies, share best practices and promote joint cooperation amongst law enforcement, NGOs and agencies with direct responsibility for child protection.

The symposium was attended by representatives from all G8 countries, a number of partner countries, law enforcement organisations from across the globe and a number of NGOs. A series of recommendations relating to combating transnational child sexual offending arose from the symposium. They are now being taken forward by country leads. The UK is leading on the sharing of best practice in victim strategies for child sexual abuse investigations. The recommendations relate to:

- The use of consistent terminology in describing the crime
- De-confliction of global groups' responsibilities and capacity and capability building
- Information sharing amongst law enforcement
- Developing collaborative partnerships including with NGOs
- Sharing best practice in child abuse investigations
- Public awareness campaigns.

Throughout the last year, the NCA's International Child Protection Network (ICPN) has provided training to overseas law enforcement in target countries to enhance their

investigative capabilities in dealing with cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Since the beginning of 2013 the NCA's ICPN has deployed to five countries across the globe to deliver Best Practice in Online Investigation Training. Four of these countries are Global Alliance members – Ukraine, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines. This training has successfully resulted in the enhancement of those countries capabilities to investigate both local offenders and UK nationals residing in their countries who are offending against children.

Requests have been made by a number of other countries for the NCA's ICPN to deliver their training, plus a number of countries who have already received training have asked for the NCA to deliver further specialist training including Achieving Best Evidence when interviewing victims. All this training is having a positive effect on improving cooperation and liaison amongst the international law enforcement community. There has been a demonstrable strengthening of the recipient country's engagement with the NCA and other law enforcement partners and a renewed commitment to investigating cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse. An example of this is Ukraine's Ministry of Interior which is now actively engaging in the global victim identification network and investigations on cyber enabled child exploitation following training delivered by the NCA in 2013.

C) Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up

In the coming year the NCA is planning a significant amount of overseas activity – through its ICPN – to share best practice even further with law enforcement across the globe. This will enhance their capacity and capability to protect children from online sexual exploitation and abuse, locate offenders and increase international law enforcement cooperation and liaison.

The NCA will be providing specialist training to law enforcement in other countries using funding from the UK government's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and from Visa Europe. The training will include the Introduction to Online Investigation Training and Achieving Best Evidence Training.

In addition the UK will continue its proactive input into the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT), participating in and leading (where appropriate) VGT operations.

The UK will link this activity to its participating in EMPACT, in particular inputting into EMPACT Operational Activity 2.2 – the delivery of specialised training on Child Sexual Exploitation; operational activity 5.3 – Joint operations on internet environments in the distribution of child sexual abuse material online and other related activity.

Policy Target No. 3

Enhancing efforts to increase public awareness of the risks posed by children's activities online, including grooming and self-production of images that results in the production of new child pornography that may be distributed online.

Operational Goal: Develop, improve, or support appropriate public awareness campaigns or other measures which educate parents, children, and others responsible for children regarding the risks that children's online conduct poses and the steps they can take to minimize those risks.

A) Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report

Last year's report outlined the NCA's Thinkuknow programme, the organisation's education programme for children, young people, parents and professionals working with children. The programme has been maintained and developed throughout the last year to ensure it continues to raise awareness of the risks children and young people face online and respond to new threats as they emerge. Indicative key programme statistics for the year 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 include:

- Thinkuknow sessions were delivered to 3.6 million children and young people across the UK
- More than 19,000 professionals registered with the programme, bringing the total to over 100,000 registered professionals
- More than 750 professionals were trained as Thinkuknow Ambassadors, bringing the total to over 5000 Ambassadors
- Over 2 million unique visitors to the Thinkuknow website.

The NCA also re-launched its websites for teens (www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_13 and www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14+) in February 2014. These sites now focus on sex, relationships and the internet, introducing new areas of advice, including advice for young people on how they should respond if they are worried that one of their peers is at risk. This is in line with the NCA's developing understanding of the children and young people's vulnerabilities to sexual exploitation and abuse.

Last year's report also stated that the NCA is a co-driver on the EU SPIRTO project. The NCA has continued in this role in which it is collaborating with other EU countries to develop a better understanding of self-generated indecent images of children. It is in the process of jointly developing a film resource on this issue for parents and carers.

B) Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance

The Thinkuknow programme continued throughout the last year to increase its reach across the UK and respond to our increasing understanding of what makes young people vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse as stated in A above. Recent research commissioned by the NCA has provided positive evidence of the impact of its Thinkuknow programme on young people's behaviour. This research found that higher levels of internet safety education (measured in schools using Thinkuknow) are associated with fewer risky behaviours online.

In addition to the NCA's programme, the Safer Internet Centre (SIC) provides an awareness centre, a helpline and a hotline for the UK. This partnership of three leading online safety charities - Childnet, the Internet Watch Foundation and the South West Grid for Learning – delivers a wide range of activity to promote the safe and responsible use of technology. Some key statistics for the partnership over the last twelve months include:

- As the national coordinator for Safer Internet Day, SIC worked with 3846 schools, reached 5.1 million Twitter users with its safety messages and had over 137,000 of its school packs downloaded
- 24,000 children participated in SIC's 'Have Your Say' survey
- 2 schools in the UK visited every working day.

In 2014, the four leading UK Internet Service Providers – BT, Virgin Media, Sky and Talk Talk – came together to fund the development and launch of Internet Matters. This is an independent, not-for-profit organisation helping parents and carers to keep their children safe online. It provides information to parents and carers about the issues and technologies that children may come across in the online world, practical tips about talking to children about the issues and practical suggestions about how to take preventative measures.

There is a wealth of information for parents, children and professionals in the UK to support them in helping manage online risks. In addition to the above, there are a number of other charities in the UK that provide specific public awareness raising and education programmes focusing on the online sexual exploitation of children including the NSPCC, Action for Children and Parent Zone. Many technology companies also operate their own awareness raising programmes in the UK including Microsoft, Facebook and Vodafone.

The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) aims to coordinate all this activity to ensure consistent and accurate messaging. UKCCIS comprises over 200 organisations from across government, law enforcement, industry, academia and the voluntary sector.

C) Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up

The delivery of the Thinkuknow programme will remain a high priority for the NCA throughout the coming year. It will continue to be informed by the latest understanding of the threats to children and young people and their vulnerabilities, with information gathered from its operational activity. Plans for the coming year include the development of new messaging and web content for parents and carers and the development of a new educational resource for young people aged 8-10.

The NCA and the charity Parent Zone is in the process of developing a free news feed for UK schools to enable them to host parenting information and advice on a wide range of topics, including sex, relationships, exploitation and the internet. This will enable the delivery of high quality awareness raising content direct to parents and carers to help them develop their children's resilience to the risks they may face online.

The NCA will also continue its participation in the EU SPIRITO project in which it will be jointly developing a film resource on self-generated indecent imagery for parents and carers.

The UK Safer Internet Centre will continue to deliver a wide range of activity to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, developing more education and awareness raising resources, operating the safety helpline for professionals working with children in the UK and operating the hotline for reporting online criminal content. The SIC will also continue as the national coordinator for Safer Internet Day, the next day being 10th February 2015.

Operational Goal: Share best practices among Global Alliance countries for effective strategies to inform the public about the risks posed by online, self-exploitative conduct in order to reduce the production of new child pornography.

A) Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report

The UK is leading efforts to share best practice across the globe to enhance public awareness about the risks to children from online sexual exploitation and abuse.

The NCA's International Child Protection Network (ICPN) provides an extensive programme of child safeguarding training for professionals working with children. This is delivered in target countries across the globe. In 2013 the NCA's ICPN delivered child safeguarding training in six countries, three of whom are members of the Global Alliance – Poland, Thailand and the Philippines. The ICPN Child Safeguarding Training is based on the NCA's successful Thinkuknow Ambassador Course and aims to educate child protection professionals about the risks posed by children's online conduct and provide

them with safeguarding measures to mitigate against these risks. The training is delivered as a ‘train-to-train’ model enabling professionals to cascade the training to colleagues, parents and children following their attendance at the course. In 2013 this will have reached over 40,000 children worldwide. These figures are based on only a relatively low reporting rate so the actual figures are likely to be much higher. During this training, educational resources to help notice signs of sexual exploitation and abuse were provided free of charge to the professionals to use with children. These resources were translated into the local language.

In 2013 the NCA’s ICPN also developed a new educational resource called Tam’s Tales for use across its global network as an awareness raising tool. This resource was developed as a comic book and a total of 22,260 comics have already been printed and distributed globally in English, Thai, Vietnamese and Khmer. Media coverage around the comic’s educational messages appeared in Thailand for free in print, on TV and radio reaching over six million people.

The NCA’s ICPN has also coordinated further public awareness campaigns in Lao PDR in collaboration with the country’s leading mobile phone provider BeeLine. BeeLine promoted the ICPN’s ‘Top Tips for Staying Safe Online’ to their network of mobile phone users daily at the time when the NCA was in country, delivering its Child Safeguarding Training. BeeLine also ran a campaign on social media and promoted the Top Tips with a poster and radio campaign.

The two main educational resources used in the NCA ICPN’s safeguarding training and awareness raising activity have now been translated into nine and five languages respectively. Collectively these resources have had over 13,600 views on the NCA’s YouTube Channel.

Additionally, the NCA’s ICPN online safety messages for children have now been incorporated into two compulsory English Textbooks (Grade 6 and Grade 8) by the Ministry of Education in Vietnam which has been seen by over 20,000 students in that country.

B) Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance

In addition to all the activity that has been achieved over the last year and detailed in A above, in 2013 the UK continued the rollout of its International Child Protection Certificate (ICPC) which was launched in October 2012. The ICPC was developed to help better protect children from British nationals and residents who would seek to travel and work overseas to sexually abuse them. It is issued following a check made against police information and intelligence databases in the UK and lists all of the applicant's convictions. The ICPC provides some reassurance that any British nationals, and persons who have resided in the UK for six months or more, employed in schools and voluntary organisations overseas do not have a criminal record in the UK that would make them unsuitable to work with children.

Produced by the Association of Chief Police Officers' Criminal Records Office (ACRO), in conjunction with the NCA, it has proven to be an extremely useful tool to organisations overseas in providing evidence of an individual's criminal history and suitability for working with children. Education and voluntary sectors overseas are accountable for the majority of the ICPC applications.

The certificate further demonstrates the UK's commitment to protecting children all over the globe from its citizens who may seek to travel overseas to abuse them.

C) Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up

In the coming year the NCA is planning further overseas activity – through its ICPN – to share best practice even further across the globe to enhance public awareness about the risks to children from online sexual exploitation and abuse.

The NCA will be undertaking child safeguarding training and comprehensive public awareness raising activity to maximise the impact of that training in India, Cambodia and the Philippines using funding from the UK government's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). It also will be undertaking this training and awareness raising activity in Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania using funding it has received from Visa Europe.

During the coming year there are also plans to promote the International Child Protection Certificate in Latin America, Canada and Africa in line with the ICPC's new marketing strategy to coordinate its global rollout.

The UK (through the NCA) will be contributing to the EMPACT operational activity relating to awareness raising activity. This work is in its early stages but, in particular, the NCA will be supporting the activity relating to the adaption of existing education materials to an international audience and promoting the use of proper terminology in the area of child sexual exploitation through the media.

Policy Target No. 4

Reducing as much as possible the availability of child pornography online and reducing as much as possible the re-victimization of children whose sexual abuse is depicted.

Operational Goal: Encourage participation by the private sector in identifying and removing known child pornography material located in the relevant State, including increasing as much as possible the volume of system data examined for child pornography images.

A) Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report

The NCA has continued throughout the last year to work closely with the private sector to enhance law enforcement efforts to locate victims and offenders. It has partnerships in place with many of the world's leading technology companies and works with them on both operational and strategic levels to further investigations and enhance the companies' knowledge of the crime.

In particular, in 2013 the NCA was invited by a number of the world's leading technology companies in the US and UK to share its knowledge of offender behaviour and child victim behaviour. These briefings enabled the companies' to use that information in product development to make their services more hostile to abuse by offenders and improve their detection of indecent images of children.

B) Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance

In 2013 the UK Prime Minister announced a series of initiatives with the private sector to make it harder for people to access child sexual abuse imagery (CSAI) online. Close working throughout the year between the Prime Minister's Office, the Home Office and the NCA has enabled significant progress to be made with the private sector to implement global solutions which make it harder for people all over the world – not just within the UK - to access CSAI. This includes:

- i) the NCA has shared a list of terms unambiguously used by those searching for CSAI with Google and Microsoft which has enabled the companies to:
 - introduce changes to their search engines to prevent any images, videos or pathways to CSAI being returned against those terms. This would be rolled out across the globe from November 2013; and
 - introduce clear warning messages which appear whenever people search for a term from the 'blacklist', telling people of the consequences of their actions and directing them to charities for support services.
- ii) a pilot has commenced between Google, Microsoft and the UK's Internet Watch Foundation to remove Torrent URLs that purport to lead to CSAI content from search results.
- iii) a UK/US Taskforce has been established to harness the expertise of the technology industry to develop new and innovative technical solutions to counter online child sexual exploitation. This work has recently resulted in the largest ever gathering of the technology industry for this purpose. 48 companies and 67 technical experts came together over two days which resulted in a number of technical concepts and ideas being developed.
- iv) a single, secure national child abuse image database (CAID – see 1A) is being developed to increase UK law enforcement's ability to identify and safeguard the victims. In parallel, the UK has been working with a small number of leading technology companies to improve their access to CSAI hashes to enhance their ability to detect and remove this content from their services. The NCA has recently undertaken a pilot project with Microsoft and Facebook to share a sample set of its CSAI hashes. This has resulted in the removal of thousands of images and webpages from Bing search results and prevented the upload of those images not previously known to the Facebook platform.

C) *Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up*

The UK Government and the NCA continues to work closely with relevant technology companies to develop the eight concepts (see B iii above) that were created at the Taskforce event in May 2014 into solutions that can be implemented by industry. The companies are drawing upon subject matter expertise from the NCA as required and reporting progress monthly to the UK and US governments and the NCA. It is hoped this activity will result in a number of ground-breaking new technical solutions being implemented across various platforms by the end of 2014 that will make a significant impact on protecting children from this crime and preventing and disrupting offenders.

Following the success of the pilot sharing of CSAI hashes with two global companies, the UK government and the NCA is investigating the potential to provide industry with access to the hashes contained within the CAID database once it is up and running at the end of 2014.

The NCA continues to provide subject matter expertise to companies to enhance their knowledge of this crime area. Some companies are also providing the NCA with improved information about how their services and platforms are being exploited by offenders to enhance law enforcement's strategic understanding of the threat to children from online sexual exploitation and abuse.

Operational Goal: Increase the speed of notice and takedown procedures as much as possible without jeopardizing criminal investigation.

A) *Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report*

The UK's Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) is a registered charity and has been in operation since 1996. The IWF is the UK hotline for reporting child sexual abuse content and is the recognized UK notice and takedown body. It currently has 120 industry members.

In the UK's 2013 report, it was stated that the IWF has embarked on an international project to enable smaller or developing countries that do not have a hotline to draw upon the experience and expertise of the IWF. This allows citizens living in that country to report online child sexual abuse content to the IWF for assessment. It also facilitates links to global bodies such as Interpol, INHOPE, ITU and CTO and access to key services provided by the IWF such as its URL list, keyword list and banned newsgroup lists at a fraction of the cost of setting up a standalone hotline.

The IWF has now developed a back office reporting portal (Online Child Sexual Abuse Reporting Portal – OCSARP) that has been implemented in Mauritius and is currently being finalised in a further 10 countries.

B) Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance

In addition to the progress made in the OSCARP project detailed in A above, in the last year the IWF has put in place a Memorandum of Understanding with the US National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). This enables IWF member companies and NCMEC to receive simultaneous alerts of material hosted on services in the US thereby increasing the speed of notice and takedown.

The IWF - in partnership with its industry members, the NCA and wider stakeholders - has managed to reduce reports of child sexual abuse content hosted in the UK from 18% of the global total to less than 1%.

In 2013 the IWF processed 51,195 reports, 31% more reports than in 2012. 13,343 were confirmed as containing criminal content within the IWF's remit.

C) Please indicate specific actions that will be undertaken as a follow-up

In 2014, the IWF has set a target of reducing reports of child sexual abuse content hosted in the UK to less than 0.5%. It will do this by continuing to provide a wide range of support to UK based hosting providers to ensure their services are not abused.

In addition, the UK (coordinated through the NCA) will be contributing to the EMPACT operational activity relating to the identification of the issues preventing or limiting blocking and removal and establish solutions/best practice/technology. A survey of member states is currently being carried out to identify the issues preventing or limiting blocking and removal and establish solutions/best practice/technology.