







National Reporting Survey 2017/18

Capabilities		Outcomes	Questions to complete
Policy and Governance 	1	Leadership: An accountable National Governance and Oversight Committee	Highest level national commitment to CSEA prevention and response Question 1: What capabilities are your government putting in place, which demonstrate the highest level national commitment to CSEA prevention? (200 words) Question 2: Please provide one example of this. (150 words)
	2	Research, Analysis and Monitoring: National situational analysis of CSEA risk and response; measurements/indicators	
	3	Legislation: Comprehensive and effective legal framework to investigate offenders and ensure protection for victims	
Criminal Justice 	4	Dedicated Law Enforcement: National remit; trained officers; proactive and reactive investigations; victim-focused; international cooperation	Effective and successful CSEA investigations, convictions and offender management Question 3: What capabilities are your government and wider stakeholders putting in place to support your criminal justice system perform victim-focused investigations and manage CSEA offenders? (200 words) Question 4: Please provide one example of this. (150 words)
	5	Judiciary and Prosecutors: Trained; victim-focused	
	6	Offender Management Process: Prevent re-offending of those in the criminal justice system nationally and internationally	
	7	Access to Image Databases: National database; link to Interpol database (ICSE)	
Victim 	8	End to End Support: Integrated services provided during investigation, prosecution and after-care	Appropriate support services for children and young people Question 5: What capabilities are your government and wider stakeholders putting in place to ensure that children and young people have access to services that support them through the investigation and prosecution of crimes against them? (200 words) Question 6: Please provide one example of this. (150 words)
	9	Child Protection Workforce: Trained, coordinated and available to provide victim support	
	10	Compensation, remedies and complaints arrangements: Accessible procedures	
	11	Child Helpline: Victim reporting and support; referrals to services for ongoing assistance	
Societal 	12	CSEA Hotline: Mechanism for reporting online CSEA content; link to law enforcement and Internet service providers	CSEA prevented Question 7: What capabilities are your government and wider stakeholders putting in place to ensure that children and young people are informed and empowered to protect themselves from CSEA? (200 words) Question 8: Please provide one example of this. (150 words)
	13	Education Programme: For: children/young people; parents/carers; teachers; practitioners; faith representatives	
	14	Child Participation: Children and young people have a voice in the development of policy and practice	
	15	Offender Support Systems: Medical, psychological, self-help, awareness.	
Industry 	16	Takedown Procedures: Local removal and blocking of online CSEA content	Industry engaged in developing solutions to prevent and tackle CSEA Question 9: What capabilities are your government and wider stakeholders putting in place to work better with technology companies and internet providers to report, block and remove online CSEA content? (200 words) Question 10: Please provide one example of this. (150 words)
	17	CSEA Reporting: Statutory protections that would allow industry to fully and effectively report CSEA, including the transmission of content, to law enforcement or another designated agency	
	18	Innovative Solution Development: Industry engagement to help address local CSEA issues	
	19	Corporate Social Responsibility: Effective child-focused programme	
Media and Communications 	20	Ethical and Informed Media Reporting: Enable awareness and accurate understanding of problem	Awareness raised among the public, professionals and policy makers Question 11: What capabilities are your government and wider stakeholders putting in place to work with the media to raise awareness of CSEA? (200 words) Question 12: Please provide one example of this. (150 words)
	21	Universal Terminology: Guidelines and application	

Question 13: Please describe some of the challenges that your country has faced in developing these capabilities and how the WePROTECT Global Alliance and partners can better support you to overcome them? **(200 words)**

2017/18 National Reporting Survey

Country: Ireland
Lead Minister: Mr Charles Flanagan, T.D., Minister for Justice and Equality
Date: Updated to 31 December 2018

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MNR Capability 1 - Policy and Governance	
Enablers	Cross sector, multi-disciplinary collaboration
Outcome	Highest level national commitment to CSEA prevention and response
Capabilities	<p>Leadership – An accountable National Governance and Oversight Committee.</p> <p>Research, Analysis and Monitoring – National situational analysis of CSEA risk and response; measurements/indicators.</p> <p>Legislation – Comprehensive and effective legal framework to investigate offenders and ensure protection for victims.</p>
<p>1. <i>With reference to the above MNR Capabilities</i> - What capabilities are your government putting in place, which demonstrate the highest level national commitment to CSEA prevention?</p>	
<p>The Irish Government is strongly committed to strengthening the laws surrounding child sexual exploitation and abuse. The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 (which amended the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998) significantly strengthened existing criminal law in combating child exploitation - in particular to address the use of modern communication technologies as a tool which may lead to child sexual exploitation</p> <p>Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, provides a Guide (Children First, National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children) for the reporting of Child Protection and Welfare concerns, including sexual abuse, for individuals and organisations working with children under the Children First Act 2015. Children First Guidance describes the four main types of abuse and sets out the steps which should be taken to ensure that the child or young person is protected from harm.</p> <p>A Children First Inter-Departmental Group has also been established involving key Government Departments, including the Department of Justice and Equality, and also Ireland’s police force, An Garda Síochána, and Tusla, the Child and Family Agency. The purpose of the Group is to keep under review the implementation of the Children First Act and the Guidance and to report to the Minister on an annual basis.</p> <p>The Garda Síochána Inspectorate report “Responding to Child Sexual Abuse – A Follow-up Review” was published in December 2017 and followed up on progress made in relation to recommendations in its 2012 report and identified areas where further progress is needed. An independently chaired inter-agency Implementation Group was established in 2018 to examine and drive forward the implementation of recommendations in the follow-up report. The work of this group is ongoing.</p>	
(Max 200 words)	

2. Please provide one example of this.

The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 was signed into law on 22 February 2017 and most parts of it were commenced on the 27th of March 2017. Among its provisions are measures to significantly strengthen existing criminal law in combating child exploitation and, in particular, address the use of modern communication technologies as a tool which may lead to child sexual exploitation. Several new offences were included in the Act in an effort to further enhance the law in this area. The first offence criminalises persons who contact children either online or through mobile communications such as text messaging for the purpose of sexually exploiting the child, while the second offence provides for the sending of sexually explicit material to a child. The Act also includes an offence in the case of a person who knowingly attends a pornographic performance involving a child.

(Max 150 words)

MNR Capability 2 – Criminal Justice	
Enablers	Willingness to prosecute, functioning justice system and rule of law
Outcome	Effective and successful CSEA investigations, convictions and offender management
Capabilities	<p>Dedicated Law Enforcement – National remit; trained officers; proactive and reactive investigations; victim-focussed; international cooperation.</p> <p>Judiciary and Prosecutors – Trained; victim-focussed.</p> <p>Offender Management Process – Prevent re-offending of those in the criminal justice system nationally and internationally.</p> <p>Access to image database – National database; link to Interpol database (ICSE)</p>
<p>3. With reference to the above MNR Capabilities - What capabilities are your government and wider stakeholders putting in place to support your criminal justice system perform victim-focused investigations and manage CSEA offenders?</p>	
<p>The Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017 was enacted on 5 November, 2017. The Act transposes into Irish law Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. The Act provides a number of statutory rights to children who are victims of crime.</p> <p>Sections 28 to 30 of the Sex Offenders Act 2001, as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 2017, include provisions for post-release supervision for sex offenders. Under the Act, it is the duty of the court to consider including post-release supervision at sentencing. During the specified period of supervision, the offender is required to engage with, and be under the supervision of, a probation and welfare officer and is required to comply with the supervision requirements that are set at sentencing. The amendment to the Act also included the provision giving power to the court to amend conditions or include new conditions for a sentence involving post-release supervision on the application of a probation officer.</p>	

The General Scheme of a Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill, which is aimed at enhancing the management of sex offenders and reducing the risk of re-offending, has been approved by Government. The main provisions are as follows:

- Changes to the notification requirements for sex offenders to ensure effective identification and monitoring;
- An improved system of risk assessment of convicted persons;
- Disclosure of information by an Garda Síochána, relating to persons on the sex offender register, in extenuating circumstances;
- Electronic monitoring of sex offenders;
- Amendment and variations of a sex offender order (including the addition of electronic monitoring to an order); and
- Provisions whereby a court can prohibit a sex offender from working with children.

Finally, the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) (Amendment) Bill 2018 is currently before the Oireachtas and is expected to be enacted in 2019. The Bill proposes to introduce presumptive minimum sentences for repeat sex offenders.

(Max 200 words)

4. Please provide one example of this.

The Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017 provides a number of statutory rights to children who are victims of crime. There are greatly expanded rights to information provided by the Act, including information on first contact regarding available support services, how to make a complaint, their role in the criminal justice system, available supports regarding translation and interpretation and on special protection measures for children who are victims of crime. Victims are also provided with information on available restorative justice schemes, legal advice, legal aid and schemes relating to compensation for injuries suffered as a result of the crime.

All victims have the right to be kept informed of the progress of an investigation and court proceedings. Where the victim of a crime is a child, they are presumed to have protection needs and an individual assessment is carried out having regard to their best interests, any views or concerns raised by the child taking into account their age and level of maturity and the views or concerns of their parent or guardian so long as the offence does not relate to them.

During court proceedings if a child cannot, for any reason, be accompanied by a parent or guardian they shall arrange for the victim to be accompanied by an appropriate person when attending any interviews and court proceedings. Special in court measures are also available such as the holding of *in camera* proceedings and the giving of evidence via live television link, through an intermediary or by using a screen to hide the accused from the victim if they are giving evidence. While this Act gives a court a power to exclude the public a victim is given the right to be accompanied by a parent, relative or friend and a support worker if the victim so chooses.

(Max 150 words)

MNR Capability 3 – Victims	
Enablers	Supportive reporting environment Aware and supportive public and professionals, working with and for children
Outcome	Appropriate support services for children and young people
Capabilities	<p>End to End Support – Integrated services provided during investigation, prosecution and after-care.</p> <p>Child Protection Workforce – Trained, coordinated and available to provide victim support.</p> <p>Compensation, Remedies and complaints arrangements – Accessible procedures.</p> <p>Child Helpline – Victim reporting and support, referrals to services for ongoing assistance.</p>
<p>5. <i>With reference to the above MNR Capabilities - What capabilities are your government and wider stakeholders putting in place to ensure that children and young people have access to services that support them through the investigation and prosecution of crimes against them?</i></p>	
<p>Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, operates community-based social work teams to provide a full assessment service to children who are suspected of being the victim of child sexual abuse. The possibility of removing the alleged perpetrator and the possibility of removing the victim from his/her family environment where this is in the best interests of the child are included in the range of options available to Tusla under the Child Care Act 1991.</p> <p>The Garda National Protective Services Bureau, a specialised unit established in 2015, provides advice guidance and assistance to Gardaí investigating sexual offences, including child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation online. A total of 10 Divisional Units have also been established across 9 Garda Divisions since 2015.</p> <p>Medical/forensic examination services are provided by the HSE and are currently available in cities and several regional hospitals.</p> <p>Specialist sexual violence services (e.g. Rape Crisis Centres) funded by Tusla, although primarily providing services to adult victims, also provide services to older children aged 14 years and above.</p> <p>Services include specialist child sexual abuse units as noted above, the child and adolescent mental health services and funded agencies such as CARI and a number of community based psychology services.</p> <p>The Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime, under the aegis of the Department of Justice & Equality, provides funding to a range of organisations which accompany victims to court for support and to provide information on court process including cases involving sexual abuse of children.</p> <p>An Garda Síochána work in tandem with the Health Service Executive in line with Children First Guidance to provide follow up services to identified victims.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Max 200 words)</p>	
<p>6. <i>Please provide one example of this.</i></p>	
<p>The CARI Foundation (with funding support from Tusla, the Child and Family Agency) provides a National Helpline to parents and carers as well as professionals when callers are concerned about a child or young person who has been sexually abused or who displays worrying sexual behaviour. They provide information and advice and explore options available including referral to follow-up service.</p>	

Childline is a 24 hour national helpline run by the Irish Society for Prevention of Cruelty of Children. Childline is a general confidential listening service but it also refers young people to social welfare services and/or the Gardaí if they are not safe and agree to give their name.

(Max 150 words)

MNR Capability 4 – Societal	
Enablers	Aware and supportive public and professionals, working with and for children Sufficient financial and human resources
Outcome	CSEA prevented
Capabilities	<p>CSEA Hotline – Mechanism for supporting online CSEA content; link to law enforcement and internet service providers.</p> <p>Education Programme – For: children/ young people; parents/carers; teachers; practitioners; faith representatives.</p> <p>Child Participation – Children and young people have a voice in the development of policy and practice.</p> <p>Offender Support Systems: Medical, psychological, self-help, awareness.</p>
<p><i>7. With reference to the above MNR Capabilities - What capabilities are your government and wider stakeholders putting in place to ensure that children and young people are informed and empowered to protect themselves from CSEA?</i></p>	
<p>The Cybercrime area of the Department of Justice and Equality acts as the coordinator for the EU Safer Internet Programme in Ireland and channels the EU funding to four partner bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webwise in PDST (Professional Development Service for Teachers in the Department of Education and Skills) – awareness raising, • Childline (ISPCC) – helpline for children, • the National Parents' Council (Primary) – helpline for parents, and • Hotline.ie. <p>The larger portion of the funding goes to the awareness raising node and to the hotline.</p> <p>Hotline.ie provides an anonymous facility for Internet Users to report suspected illegal content, particularly Child Sexual Abuse Material, accidentally encountered Online, in a secure and confidential way.</p> <p>Hotline.ie is run and funded by the Internet Service Providers Association of Ireland (ISPAL) whose members are determined to take measures to counter the use of their Internet facilities for such illegal purposes. It is also co-financed by the European Union's Connecting Europe Facility.</p> <p>The Hotline works in collaboration with An Garda Síochána and it is overseen by the Department of Justice and Equality's Cybercrime area.</p> <p>To ensure international reach, ISPAL is a founding member of INHOPE – the International Network of Internet Hotlines.</p> <p>The Garda Primary Schools Programme was first introduced in 1991 and advises children on sensible and responsible patterns of behaviour. The Programme consists of a series of presentations and discussions given to the school children by local Community Gardaí who are specially trained. To deliver the programme, Gardaí visit primary schools</p>	

throughout the country to educate children about their responsibilities around their own behaviour when using the internet or mobile phones.

The Action Plan for Online Safety 2018-2019, was launched in July 2018 and is currently being implemented. The Plan is based around 5 goals; Online Safety for All; Better Supports; Stronger Protections; Influencing Policy and Building Our Understanding. These goals include several actions to increase engagement with children and young people and support peer-to-peer initiatives, with a view to empowering them to become informed about their rights, responsibilities and the structure and supports in place should they need them.

(Max 200 words)

8. Please provide one example of this.

To mark Safer Internet day 2018 (6 February 2018), Webwise have launched a new educational resource, Be In Ctrl, developed in partnership with An Garda Síochána. The resource deals with online coercion and extortion of children which is a form of digital blackmail, sometimes referred to as 'sextortion', where sexual information or images are used to extort sexual material, sexual favours or money from children. The campaign includes a 10-minute video, portraying two teenagers, a boy and girl, being exploited online either by a criminal organisation for money or by an individual online sexual offender seeking further sexual material. The video, includes advice as to how such crimes may be reported to An Garda Síochána.

(Max 150 words)

MNR Capability 5 – Industry	
Enablers	National legal and policy frameworks in accordance with the UNCRC and other international and regional standards
Outcome	Industry engaged in developing solutions to prevent and tackle CSEA
Capabilities	<p>Takedown Procedures – Local removal and blocking of online CSEA content.</p> <p>CSEA Reporting – Statutory protections that would allow industry to fully and effectively report CSEA, including the transmission of content, to law enforcement or another designated agency.</p> <p>Innovative Solution Development – Industry engagement to help address online CSEA.</p> <p>Corporate Social Responsibility – Effective child focused programme.</p>
<p>9. <i>With reference to the above MNR Capabilities - What capabilities are your government and wider stakeholders putting in place to work better with technology companies and internet providers to report, block and remove online CSEA content?</i></p>	
<p>Given the need to engage in cross sectoral dialogue and partnerships so as to maximise on the work of experts across industry, law enforcement and other sectors, the Minister met with representatives of Irish based industry representatives and An Garda Síochána in February 2015 promoting a dialogue in which cross sector collaboration and partnership approaches in this area could be explored.</p> <p>The aim of the meeting was to generate an overview of industry and law enforcement positions/ with regard to current engagement/projects in tackling the problem of CSE online; the challenges faced in bringing about greater engagement and the potential for more effective engagement whether it be individually, collectively or through collaboration/partnership.</p> <p>Ireland has in place multi-stakeholder bodies which function as part of the overall national framework for internet safety, and is also a member of the WePROTECT Global Alliance and intends to participate in the next conference.</p> <p>An Garda Síochána has established the Garda Blocking Initiative with one of Ireland’s largest internet service providers (ISPs). Under the initiative, the ISP blocks access to illegal child sexual abuse material (CSAM) in accordance with a list provided by An Garda Síochána. An Garda Síochána is in discussion with other ISPs with a view to expanding the initiative – Action 13.3 of the Action Plan for Online Safety 2018-2019.</p> <p>Also under Action 13 of the Action Plan for Online Safety 2018-2019, Ireland is committed to strengthening links and processes with industry for removing illegal and harmful material online. In particular, under this Action Ireland will enhance measures to support improved cooperation between hotline.ie and industry, and will increase ISP signup to the industry code of practice and ethics.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Max 200 words)</p>	
<p>10. <i>Please provide one example of this.</i></p>	
<p>Hotline.ie is the confidential service for reporting illegal content on the internet in Ireland. The illegal content is mainly sexual abuse material (CSAM), but the hotline also deal with reports concerning fraud and hate speech.</p>	

Where illegal content is drawn to the notice of an Internet Service Provider (ISP) then the ISP takes the content down. This is referred to as 'Notice and Takedown'. The Notice and Takedown system is a voluntary one covered by the ISPAI (Internet Service Providers Association of Ireland) "Code of Practice and Ethics".

Hotline.ie is operated by the ISPAI. Hotline.ie may only act on reports received and it liaises closely with An Garda Síochána in carrying out its functions. The Annual Report of Hotline.ie gives details and statistics on their operations.

(Max 150 words)

MNR Capability 6 – Media and Communications

Enablers	Data and evidence on CSEA
Outcome	Awareness raised among the public, professionals and policy makers
Capabilities	Ethical and Informed Media Reporting – Enable awareness and accurate understanding on the problem. Universal Terminology – Guidelines and application.
<p>11. With reference to the above MNR Capabilities - What capabilities are your government and wider stakeholders putting in place to work with the media to raise awareness of CSEA?</p> <p>Within the Framework of the Action Plan on Online Safety, a single online access point, Be Safe Online, was launched in July 2018 as part of a national communications campaign which targeted specific groups, including children and young people, parents; guardians and teachers, and is accessible on www.gov.ie/besafeonline providing links to all available online safety resources. This website will be updated as additional resources are developed.</p> <p>The National Advisory Council for Online Safety (NACOS) was established in September 2018 as part of the Government's Action Plan for Online Safety, succeeding the Internet Safety Advisory Committee (ISAC). NACOS comprises representatives from An Garda Síochána, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, industry, academia, and the EU Safer Internet Programme partner bodies. NACOS advises Government on online safety issues and identifies emerging issues where Government intervention might be needed.</p>	
(Max 200 words)	
<p>12. Please provide one example of this.</p> <p>The partner body for awareness raising on internet safety is the Professional Development Service for Teachers in the Department of Education and Skills (PDST). It operates Webwise and promotes and supports the integration of ICT in teaching and learning in first and second level schools.</p> <p>PDST/Webwise operates two websites. webwise.ie raises awareness of online safety among children, their parents and teachers, while watchyourspace.ie concentrates on combating cyberbullying and showcases and supports the work of young people who are running initiatives in their schools and youth groups.</p> <p>PDST/Webwise organises the Irish events for the international Safer Internet Day in February each year.</p>	
(Max 150 words)	

How can the WePROTECT Global Alliance support you?

13. Please describe some of the challenges that your government has faced in developing these MNR capabilities and how the WePROTECT Global Alliance and partners can better support you to overcome them?

The MNR effectively calls for an integrated cross governmental approach to child online safety. Many of the ongoing strands of work across government Departments in relation to online safety have been recognised and coordinated under the umbrella of the national Action Plan for Online Safety 2018-2019. As the goals and actions under the Action Plan are achieved, further avenues of endeavour may come to light in this challenging environment. Resources to continue to tackle the work will need to be identified and engagement between Departments will need to continue. In this way, Ireland will steadily move forward to fulfil the promise of the MNR.

(Max 200 words)