



How to...

report online child sexual abuse content to the IWF

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) provides the UK Hotline for the public and IT professionals to report potentially criminal online content in a secure and confidential way. You can anonymously report:

- Child sexual abuse images and videos hosted anywhere in the world
- Criminally obscene adult content hosted in the UK. This is adult pornography of an extreme and criminal nature, such as rape or torture
- Non-photographic child sexual abuse images hosted in the UK, such as computer-generated or hand drawn images of children being sexually abused



The IWF works closely with the online industry to ensure that child sexual abuse images and videos are removed from the internet quickly and that access to these websites is prevented while the take-down is in progress.

At the same time, the IWF keeps close relationships with law enforcement agencies to ensure that the necessary evidence is preserved so that law enforcement can investigate the people who produce and distribute the content.

To report criminal content, go to **www.iwf.org.uk** and click on the 'report criminal content here' button. This will take you through the reporting process which only takes a couple of minutes.

Step 1

Indicate the type of content

The IWF specifically deals with child sexual abuse content hosted anywhere in the world and criminally obscene adult

content and non-photographic child sexual abuse images hosted in the UK. You are asked to indicate which of these three types of content you think you are reporting.



Step 2

Indicate where you found the content

Simply tick the box indicating where you found the content (websites, newsgroups, emails with links...)

The screenshot shows the 'Report child sexual abuse content to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)' form at Step 2. A progress bar at the top indicates the current step. The main heading is 'WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?'. Below it are four radio button options: 'Spam Email (with links to content)', 'Website', 'Usenet / Newsgroup', and 'Other'. The 'Website' option is selected. A green button labeled 'PROCEED TO NEXT STEP' is located on the right side of the form.

Step 3

Provide the URL

Provide the link or URL of the website where you have encountered the content. You can also leave additional comments should you wish.

The screenshot shows the 'Report child sexual abuse content to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)' form at Step 3. A progress bar at the top indicates the current step. The main heading is 'WEBSITE DETAILS'. Below it is a pink informational box: 'In order for the IWF to investigate a website we need its address which is known as a URL, e.g. http://www.iwf.org.uk, www.iwf.org.uk or iwf.org.uk. If you have any information you think may assist the IWF, such as a description of where the content you are reporting is located on a large website or username and password needed to gain access, please include it in the description box. Thank you.' Below this are two input fields: 'Web Address' with a 'www.' prefix and a 'Description' box. A green button labeled 'PROCEED TO NEXT STEP' is on the right.

Step 4

Choose reporting method

You can choose whether to report anonymously or to leave your contact details. If you request feedback, the IWF will keep you informed about the progress of the assessment and the possible removal of the content.

The screenshot shows the 'Report child sexual abuse content to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)' form at Step 4. A progress bar at the top indicates the current step. The main heading is 'CHOOSE YOUR REPORTING METHOD'. Below it is a pink informational box: 'We will keep your contact details strictly confidential. If you prefer to remain completely anonymous you can do so, but if we need to contact you further about the reported content or you wish to be able to respond back to us with your unique reference number regarding your report then we need some contact details, including an email address.' Below this are two options: 'OPTION 1: You would like to remain anonymous' with a checked 'Anonymity' checkbox, and 'OPTION 2: You are happy to provide your contact details' with input fields for 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'Email', 'Organisation', and a 'Country' dropdown menu set to 'United Kingdom'. A green button labeled 'PROCEED TO NEXT STEP' is on the right.

Step 5

Report confirmation

You will receive a message indicating your report has been submitted to the IWF.

The screenshot shows the 'Report child sexual abuse content to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)' form at Step 5. A progress bar at the top indicates the current step. The main heading is 'Thank you for your report'. Below it is a pink informational box: 'Thank you for submitting your report to the Internet Watch Foundation. If you would like to see what happens to your report click here. We'd be grateful if you could spare some time to fill out our website feedback form.' A green button labeled 'PROCEED TO NEXT STEP' is on the right.

In 2011, the IWF processed a total of 41,877 reports and was able to take action on 12,966 URLs as they were considered to contain potentially criminal child sexual abuse content.

