

Welcome to the Webinar,
we shall be starting shortly

Please note, to help with streaming and continuity,
your cameras and microphones have been disabled –
if you have any questions, please post them in the
“chat” facility (speech bubble icon)

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Financially Motivated Sexual Exploitation of young people (sextortion)

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Introductions

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Derbyshire Police

PCSO Sarah DUFTON

Digital PCSO
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What is 'sextortion'?

Sextortion is a form of online blackmail. Criminals trick victims into sharing sexual images or videos of themselves, and then use those images to threaten, manipulate or extort the person, often demanding money or more explicit material.

These crimes are frequently carried out by organised groups abroad, operating from call centres or using paid actors to pose as someone the victim may be romantically interested in.

Many victims are coerced into performing sexual acts on webcam, unaware they are being recorded. The footage is then used to blackmail the victim, with threats to share it online or with their family and friends.

Why would a child share intimate images?

It's easy to judge, but not all children are coerced. Many share images because they want to impress, flirt, or feel included.

Sometimes they think they're in a trusting relationship. Others may feel peer pressure, or worry about being excluded if they don't join in.

*Regardless of the reason, a child is **never** to blame if they are blackmailed online.*

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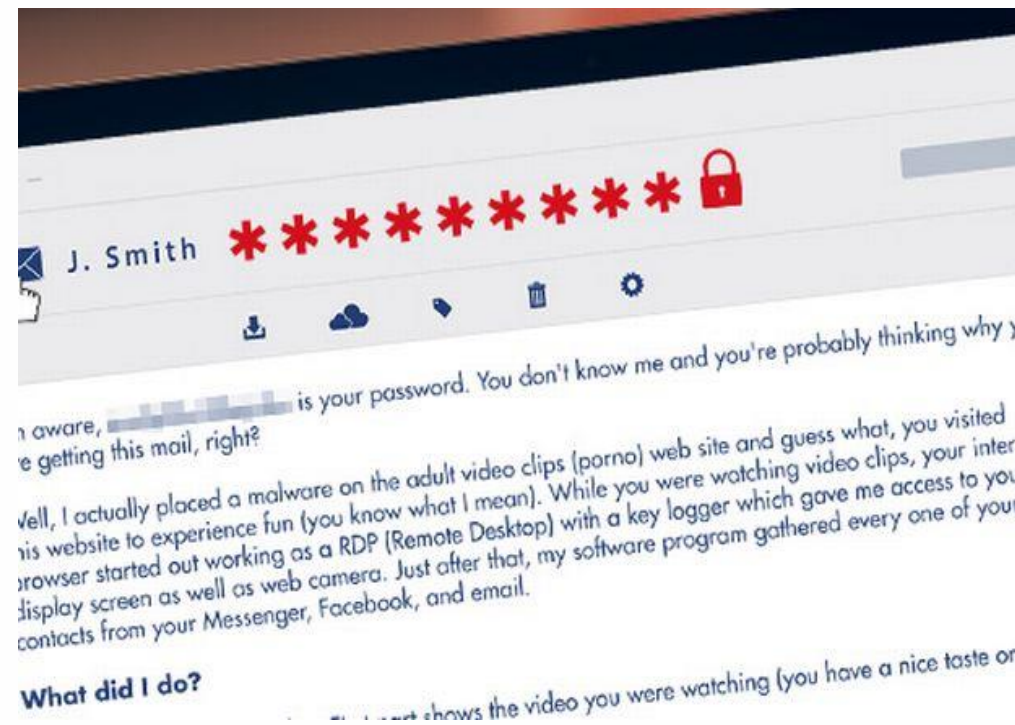
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Not to be confused with sextortion 'phishing' emails

- May or may not contain the individuals password, phone number or address
- Claims to have infiltrated webcam and have footage & copied contacts from social media/email
- Crypto ransom demanded
- Threatens to share footage to contacts if you don't pay
- DO NOT PAY
- DO NOT COMMUNICATE
- Change the password mentioned on any accounts that use that password
- Report to www.actionfraud.police.uk and forwarding to report@phishing.gov.uk



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Why now ... and what is the scale of the problem?

At the end April 2024, the NCA put out an alert to the education sector re: sextortion involving teens.

The number of global sextortion cases reported to the US National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) more than doubled in 2023, rising to 26,718 compared to 10,731 the year before.

All age groups and genders are being targeted, but a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged between 14-18.

91% of victims in UK sextortion cases dealt with by the Internet Watch Foundation in 2023 were male.



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Revenge Porn
Helpline

From (UK) Revenge Porn Helpline re ChatBot assistance :

“the overwhelming majority (88%) of chatbot users were 18 or older. However, concerningly there were 825 requests for support from children aged 13-18, as well as the 170 requests from those under 13.”

Internet Watch Foundation removed 400,000 CSAM images from the internet in 2023 in comparison to 153,000 in 2020.

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Definition of sexting

- Sending or posting of nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams online by young people under the age of 18
- Nudes and semi-nudes tend to be shared online via social media, gaming platforms, chat apps, forums, or involve sharing between devices using offline services
- Alternative terms used by young people may include 'nudes', 'dick pics' or 'pics' The motivations for taking and sharing nude and semi-nudes are not always sexually or criminally motivated

PLEASE NOTE!!

- **Never** view, copy, print, share, store or save the imagery yourself, or ask a child to share or download – **this is illegal**



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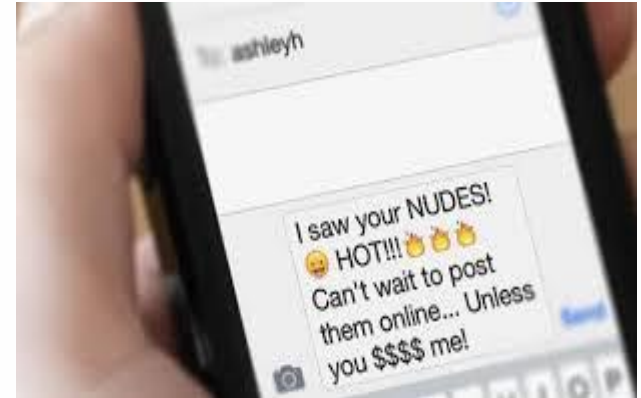
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What is happening :

- Youngster voluntarily sends intimate images to someone they believe they know; or someone they believe is their own age
- They may be encouraged, manipulated or pressured into taking nude or semi-nude photos or videos
- They may be told their accounts have been hacked and the offender has access to their images, personal information and contacts (whether this is true or not)
- Then blackmailed into sending money or meeting another financial demand (such as purchasing a pre-paid gift card) after sharing an image or video, or the offender sharing hacked or digitally



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Young person may report :

- being contacted by an online account that they do not know but appears to be another child or young person. NB : They may also be contacted by a hacked account of a child or young person they do know, but the nature of communication feels unfamiliar
- quickly engaged in sexually explicit communications, which may include the offender sharing an indecent image first
- moved from a chat on social media, an online platform or game to a private messaging app that is an end-to-end encrypted chat platform



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Key points

- FMSE is being carried out by Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) from outside the UK, using fake profiles, or compromised profiles
- Predominantly targets males aged 14-18
- Motivated by making money quickly, rather than by sexual gratification, and in some cases have gone from initial contact to blackmailing their victim in under an hour.
- Once you are made aware, it is critical to avoid victim blaming language and seek support for the individual

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Reducing the risk

- Separate passwords for every account – not containing personal details, favourite teams, pet names etc
- Set up 2 step verification in security settings
- Know how to report issues to the platform. Make a note of usernames/handles of offending accounts
- Use Social Media Checklists to make sure you all are aware of settings and reporting
- Ensure youngsters are aware of the risks – account compromise, cloud accounts etc



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Advice :

Most importantly, make sure they understand that this can be resolved, NEVER pay or engage with blackmailers

Review privacy settings : talk to youngster about the importance of using privacy settings on their accounts to restrict who can contact them. Read CEOP Education's advice here <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/a-parents-guide-to-privacy-settings/>

Ensure they understand the risks that accounts can be hacked, and messages accessed; and of course, they might not be chatting with who they think – either a compromised account or in fact a completely fake profile

Make sure they know where to go for support : let them know that they can come to you with any concerns and won't be judged. Also make them aware of other trusted adults or sources of support, if they feel they can't talk to you, such as Childline; School Staff; PCSOs etc

Make sure they know where to report : remind your child how you can help them to report an incident to the police or using the CEOP Safety Centre. Let them know that if a nude or semi-nude of them has been shared without their consent, they can take these 3 steps to try and get them removed: (next slide)

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For those who work with under 18s : What to do if an incident comes to your attention

Report it to your DSL or equivalent immediately. Your setting's child protection policy should outline codes of practice to be followed.

Never view, copy, print, share, store or save the imagery yourself, or ask a child to share or download – **this is illegal**

Note: In exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary for the DSL (or equivalent) only to view the image to safeguard the child or young person. That decision should be based on the professional judgement of the DSL (or equivalent).

If you have already viewed the imagery by accident (e.g. if a young person has showed it to you before you could ask them not to), report this to the DSL (or equivalent) and seek support

Do not delete the imagery or ask the young person to delete it

Do not ask the child/children or young person(s) who are involved in the incident to disclose information regarding the imagery. This is the responsibility of the DSL (or equivalent)

Do not share information about the incident with other members of staff, the young person(s) it involves or their, or other, parents and/or carers

Do not say or do anything to blame or shame any young people involved

Do explain to them that you need to report it and reassure them that they will receive support and help from the DSL (or equivalent)

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What tools are available to help

Use **Report Remove**, a tool from Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation.

Your child can use this to remove images that have been shared or might be shared.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

Use **Take It Down**, a tool from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Your child can use this to remove or stop the online sharing of images or videos.

<https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/>

Report directly to the platform or app that the incident has occurred on. For advice on how to report to major social media platforms, visit Internet Matters.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/report-issue/>

For 18+

Revenge Porn Helpline - 0345 6000 459

<https://revengepornhelpline.org.uk/>

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Further resources :

UK Safer Internet Centre

[Advice for parents of children who are being 'sexorted' online \(iwf.org.uk\)](https://www.iwf.org.uk)

[Sextortion - Resources - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Internet Watch Foundation

[Advice for parents of children who are being 'sexorted' online \(iwf.org.uk\)](https://www.iwf.org.uk)

GOV.UK

[Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Lucy Faithfull Foundation

[Nudes and sexual selfies \(sexting\) - Parents Protect](#)



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Further reading :

Revenge Porn Helpline

https://revengepornhelpline.org.uk/assets/documents/revenge-porn-helpline-report-2023.pdf?_id=1714738699

Look at me report (Internet Matters website)

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Internet-Matters-Look-At-Me-Report-1.pdf>

NCA Alert

Professionals Guidance (CEOP website)

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/professionals/guidance/fmse-alert/>

[nca financially motivated sexual extortion alert education eng.pdf](#)
([ceopeducation.co.uk](https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk))

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