



**Casus Omissus**  
The Aberdeen Law Project

# Digital Crime Awareness Workshop

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The Aberdeen Law Project**Who we are**

Aims of the Workshop  
 Underage Images  
 Grooming  
 Catfishing  
 Revenge Pornography  
 Trolling  
 Mobbing  
 The Consequences  
 Trolls  
 Remember

## WHO WE ARE



The Aberdeen Law Project is the **first student founded, led, and operated law project in the UK.**

We provide **free legal assistance and representation** to those who cannot afford a lawyer but do not qualify for legal aid (and so are in the 'justice gap') and run **outreach projects** educating the community on the law.

We operate in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, having expanded into Inverness in 2018.



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We are part of the **Digital Crime Awareness Project (DCAP)**.

DCAP's aim is to educate students and the wider community on digital crime.

## AIMS OF TODAY'S WORKSHOP

- Introduce the idea of digital crime;
- Show you how to recognise these crimes;
- Show how to prevent this.



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## UNDERAGE IMAGES



Young people may do it because:

- they are threatened or coerced;
- they believe that everyone else is doing it;
- they think that they are in love.

Snapchat provides them with a false sense of security.



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## UNDERAGE IMAGES

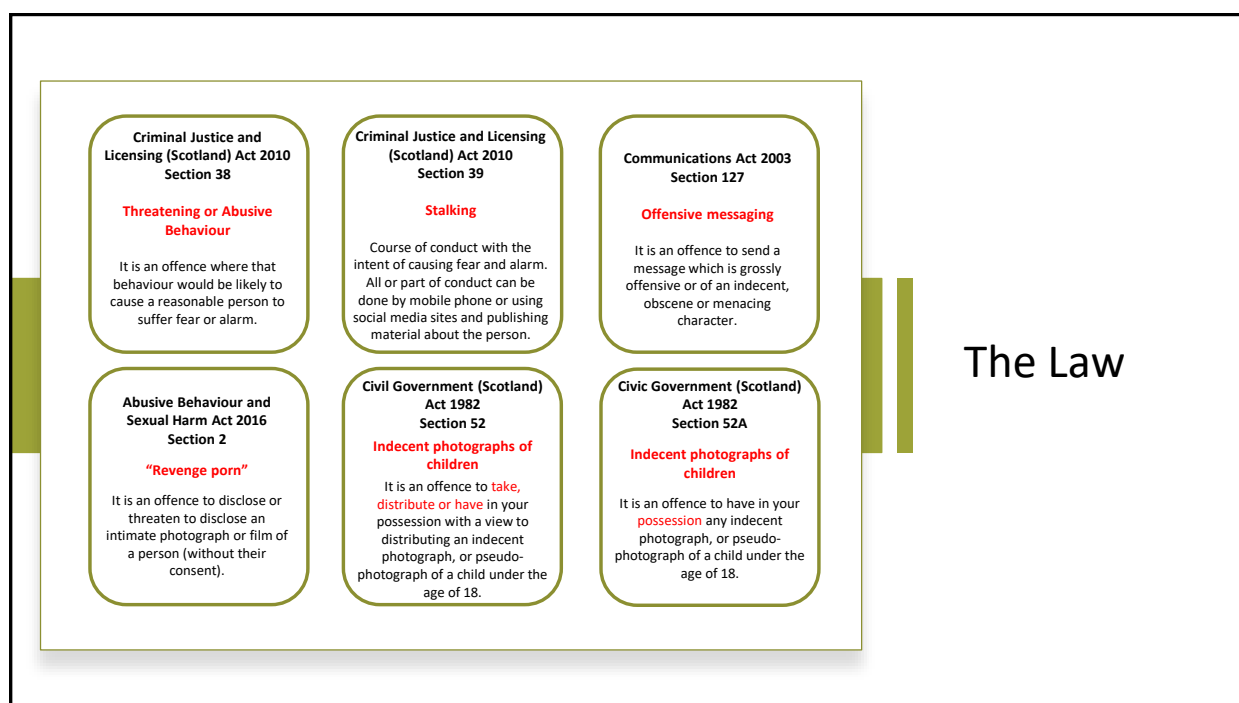
### What is the law?

If you are under 18, sending, receiving and possessing explicit pictures of someone under 18 is **ILLEGAL**.

- But, why?
- You never know where it might end up.





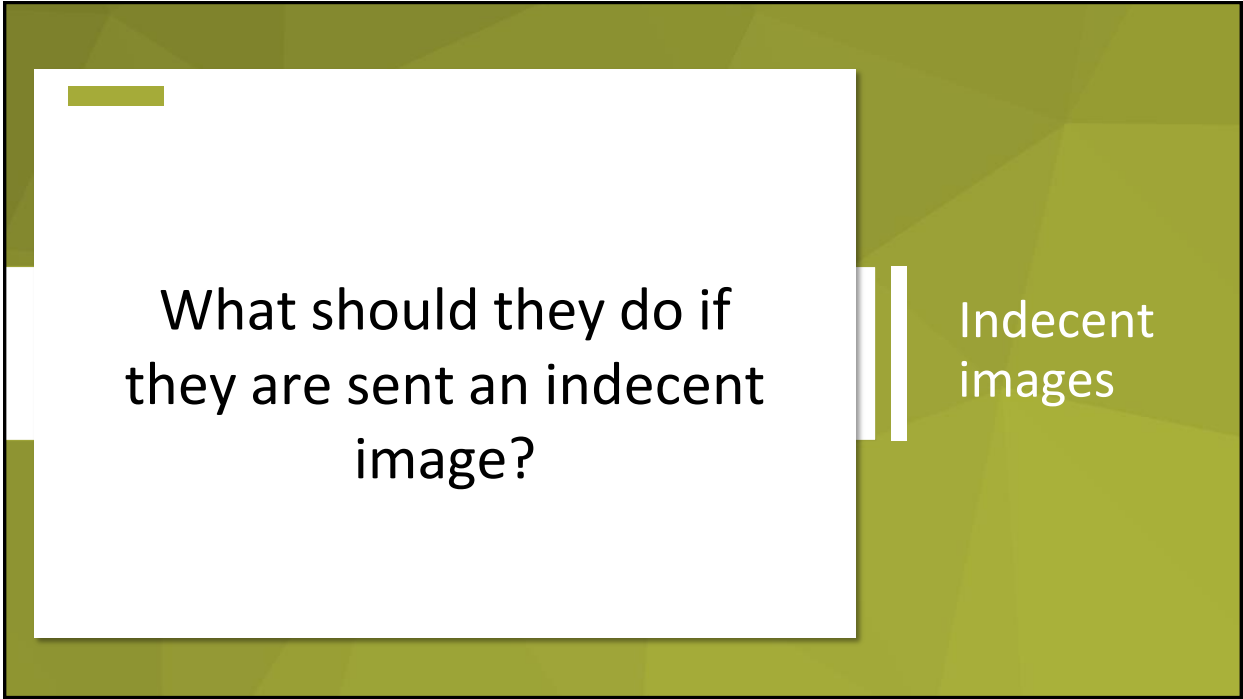


## Why this has been made wrong in law ?

- It is very difficult to control an image once it has been stored or shared on a phone.
- To stop images of children falling into the wrong hands.
- To protect them and their friends from potential embarrassment.







What should they do if  
they are sent an indecent  
image?

Indecent  
images

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## GROOMING

- **Definition:** An adult preparing and influencing a child with the intention of committing a sexual act, most often online.
- **How?** It is a gradual process where the abuser picks targets, attempts to gain trust and results in physical and mental abuse, or sexual or financial favours. Start off by building trust, usually on a mutual interest.



*Children have been “groomed” whilst playing online videogames.*



**TRUE**



**FALSE**

**Answer:** Children have been “groomed” whilst playing online videogames, as young as 9 years old.



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## GROOMING

On 17th February 2014, Breck Bednar, a 14-year-old boy was killed by an 18-year-old Lewis Daynes. Bednar knew Daynes only through online gaming and had never met him in person until he visited Daynes's flat on the day of the murder.

Not the stereotypical 'creepy old man' classically connotated with grooming. Grooming can occur at any age, and by anyone of any age.

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## CATFISHING

- Creating a false online account to mislead strangers.
- **Why?** Done for fun, money, bullying or in order to contact children online.
- **Take-away:** You cannot trust people online even when they seem very nice and trustworthy.
- Be extra careful if someone contacts you out of the blue, has very few friends.



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## THE WARNING SIGNS

- Becomes secretive about online activities
- Becomes obsessive about being online
- Their language becomes more sexually orientated
- More aggressive and protective of gadgets
- Possible rumors going around the school that have been overheard.





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## SUMMARY

GROOMING	CATFISHING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grooming allows offenders to slowly overcome natural boundaries long before sexual abuse occurs.</li> <li>Grooming a child can look like a close relationship. The grooming process is often misleading because the offender may be well-known or highly regarded in the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a false online account to mislead strangers.</li> <li>Done for fun, money, bullying or in order to contact children online.</li> </ul>

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## REVENGE PORNOGRAPHY

- Any intimate picture sent which may cause harm/distress to the victim.
- 1/3 of reported revenge porn victims are teenagers



**Zara McDermott: 'Revenge porn still affects me today'**

- You never know who you can trust!
- What is posted can stay online forever!



## Real life & celebrity examples



**Anyone can be a victim!**



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## What to do if you suspect a child has been involved

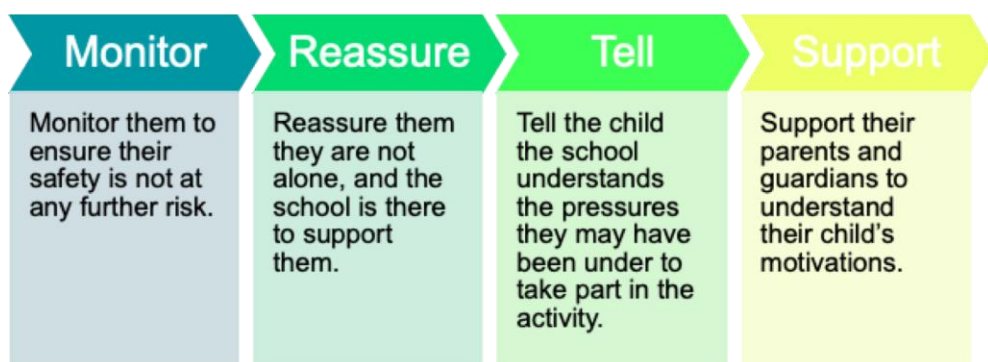
<b>Identify</b>	Identify the situation.
<b>Recognise</b>	Recognise what the image contains and who is involved (without viewing the image where possible).
<b>Discuss</b>	Discuss action to prevent further distribution. •delete any images or videos from social media accounts •including from cloud photo backups as soon as possible.



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## Children may be particularly vulnerable at this time



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Internet trolls are people who intentionally send offensive messages online in order to get attention, cause trouble or upset someone else.

# Trolling



## Why people troll:

- frustrated by seeing the success of others (especially those with a large following)
- doesn't like seeing others happy and enjoying life as they often are not.
- jealous and seeks revenge or attention,
- boredom or personal amusement
- generate attention and a response.
- children like to test the limits and see what reaction they can get



Type of troll	Target	Intentions
Type 1	Large public figures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hopes to receive attention and a response from the 'star'</li> <li>• wants to generate anger and upset amongst the 'stars' followers</li> </ul>
Type 2	Ordinary people (more common for children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enjoys causing harm to others</li> <li>• get satisfaction from bringing others down.</li> </ul>

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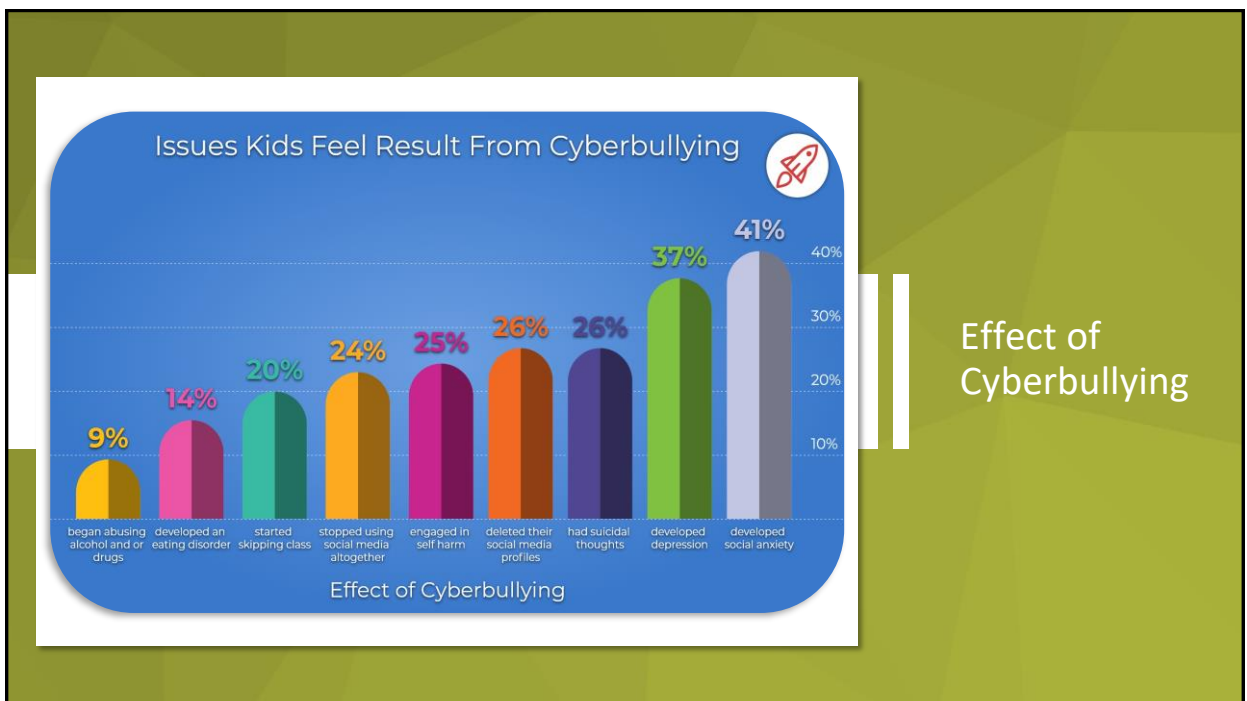
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## Mobbing



When a group of people combine to attack a targeted person by abuse, undermining, sidelining or otherwise causing harm to their morale and reputation.



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## Trolls face consequences too - sometimes even jail

- They cannot hide behind their computer for long.
- A single reporting of their account can unlock a large amount of personal information about them.
- Since October 2016, the CPS issued additional offences for trolls on twitter to be jailed if they use 'derogatory hashtags' or 'humiliating photoshopped images'.
- The director of Public Prosecutions Alison Saunders said: "Ignorance is not a defence and perceived anonymity is not an escape. Those who commit these acts, or encourage others to do the same, can and will be prosecuted."



## Celebrity impacts





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## How a child should deal with online harrasment?

- Don't respond
- Block or delete the person
- Keep records of any posts or messages. E.g. screenshot
- Report it to the site moderators
- Talk about how it has made them feel
- If they appear in danger contact the police

