



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE

PROUD TO SERVE

My name is Detective Inspector Martin Hillier from the Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit of Nottinghamshire Police. My unit investigate all types of sexual exploitation involving children from trafficking for sexual purposes, internet related crime to simple offences such as sexting.

I have grave concerns over the amount of referrals Nottinghamshire Police are receiving on a daily basis in relation to naked images being sent between teenagers via either social networking, texts or mobile phone apps.

It is crucial that children (under 18 years) understand that every internet site and social networking site is monitored by an administrator. When photographs that fall within the category of an indecent image (even if taken with consent) are uploaded, reports are made by the administrators to the Police.

If a person is aged over 10yrs and distributes (shares - even to friends) an indecent image then they can be arrested, charged and dealt with for this offence. If they are found guilty they must then register as a sex offender.

Scenarios of live investigations include: -

A girl has sent a picture of her breasts to her boyfriend. They then fall out and the boyfriend then sends this picture to his mates as a joke. The girl and the boy are guilty of distribution of an indecent image of a child. A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 years.

A teenager who takes a picture of his genitals and then sends this to his friends as a joke – this is distribution and the sender can be prosecuted for this offence

An individual's online reputation needs protecting as it stays with them for the rest of their life. Once a photograph has been uploaded to the internet it is almost impossible to remove it.

I would like to make every school in Nottinghamshire aware of these offences and the implications of pupil's involvement in such behaviour. Please remember that an indecent image of child now relates to under 18 years and not under 16 years as it used to be prior to the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Martin Hillier
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Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit.