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Rights Lab

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SLAVERY**

Legal and institutional responses to the online sexual exploitation of children

The United Kingdom country case study



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Content notice

This report deals with the topic of online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) and includes reference to abuses experienced by children in this context. The report does not recount the specific experiences involved in OSEC cases. However, it does describe types and patterns of behaviour associated with OSEC in general terms.

Authorship and acknowledgements

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Table of abbreviations

AMLC	Anti-Money Laundering Council
CEOP	Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command
CJA	Criminal Justice Act 1988
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
CSA	Child sexual abuse
CSAM	Child sexual abuse material
CSEM	Child sexual exploitation material
DAA	Data Access Agreement
ESPs	Electronic Service Providers
IP	Internet Protocol
MLA	Mutual Legal Assistance
NCA	National Crime Agency
NCMEC	National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
NDEC	National Data Exploitation Capability
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NPCC	National Police Chiefs' Council
OSEC	Online sexual exploitation of children
PCA	Protection of Children Act 1978
POCA	Proceeds of Crime Act 2002
SARs	Suspicious Activity Reports
SOA	Sexual Offences Act 2003
STRs	Suspicious Transaction Reports
TACT	Terrorist Act 2000
UK	United Kingdom
UKFIU	UK Financial Intelligence Unit
US	United States

Background

In the landmark case of *R v. Michael Anthony Charnley* [2010] EWCA Crim 1996, Lord Justice Moses stated that:

The fact that they [children] were the other side of the world, in countries such as the Philippines, but that modern communications enabled the offender to procure their sexual abuse is no mitigation. It is indeed an aggravation. No doubt the offender and others like him thought he could far more easily escape detection by committing these offences in that way by payment through a credit card than if he had dared to be present and commit these offences within this country. - (para 19).

Lord Justice Moses further stated that:

It is plain that such offenders, obsessed with the opportunity so easily on payment to obtain their own sexual gratification at the cost of terrible abuse of these children, need to be deterred. These children, coming as they do from impoverished circumstances, need protection. They need protection against the ever more sophisticated methods by which offenders obtain sexual gratification. - (para 20).

In the United Kingdom (UK), the National Crime Agency (NCA) indicated that ‘there are at least 300,000 people in the UK who pose a sexual threat to children’ (Grierson & Weale, 2020). Further, Chief Constable Simon Bailey—the National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) Lead for Child Protection and Abuse Investigations—stated that the UK is ‘the third greatest consumer in the world of the live streaming of abuse’ (Jay, Evans, Frank, & Sharpling, 2020, p. 74).

The Philippines’ Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) found that the UK was amongst the consistent top five countries in the demand side of online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) in terms of both volume and value of identified Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) related to online sexual exploitation of children (AMLC, 2020, p. 8).¹ The AMLC identified 1,498 STRs stemming from the UK between 2015 and 2020, aggregating a total of 4,987,484.24 PHP (ibid).

OSEC poses significant investigation and prosecution challenges. According to the NCA, live streaming is considered as ‘one of the emerging threats to children’ (Children of the Digital Age, 2020). In this respect, the Home Secretary recognised in 2015 that child sexual exploitation and abuse should be considered ‘as a threat of national importance’ and should be dealt with in the same way as terrorism (ibid, p. 21). This policy carried a ‘very clear’ message that law enforcement should tackle online child sexual abuse with ‘an effective and adequately resourced response’ (ibid).

Online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) involves the use of technology and the internet to view and share child sexual exploitation material (CSEM), groom children online, or live stream sexual abuse of children. Abuse becomes exploitation where the offending involves an exchange of some kind of financial or other benefits. Generally, the offender pays through a money transfer agency to the trafficker who has access to exploited children to generate CSEM. This material is then transmitted from live streaming video communications platforms. These activities are classified as trafficking in persons according to the Palermo Protocol (IJM, 2020, p. 16).

This country report examines domestic legislation and policies relevant to OSEC in the UK, as well as exploring the investigation and prosecution of OSEC cases. Special attention is paid to financial flows involved in OSEC cases to analyse how payments made for OSEC are detected, reported, and investigated by UK law enforcement agencies and other relevant domestic authorities.

¹ Other top four countries in the demand side of OSEC were United States, Saudi Arabia, Australia and Canada.

1. Overview of domestic legislation and policy

The UK does not have a specific legislation addressing OSEC. Online sexual crimes against children, including OSEC and live streaming, are dealt with under various laws—listed in Table 1.

Table 1: UK laws relevant to OSEC

Law	Year adopted	Relevant Provisions
Obscene Publications Act	1959	Sections 1 and 2
Protection of Children Act	1978	Section 1
Criminal Justice Act	1988	Section 160
Sexual Offences Act	2003	Sections 5 – 15, and 47 – 51
Serious Crime Act	2007	Sections 44 – 46
Coroners and Justice Act	2009	Section 62

Although UK law does not specifically define and punish OSEC, this specific form of child sexual abuse and exploitation has been addressed in several governmental policy documents. For example, in a report published in 2018, *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, HM Government stated that:

[Child sexual abuse] involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. - (HM Government, 2018, p. 107).

Similarly, in its *Child Sexual Exploitation guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers*, the Department for Education stated that:

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. - (Department for Education, 2017, p. 5).

Colin Radcliffe from the NCA's Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) stated that 'Internationally, we are pushing for as many countries as possible to have a specific offence for the live streaming of child sexual abuse, but it doesn't really exist in UK law at this moment' (Interview #2). When asked if the UK legislation is sufficient to investigate and prosecute OSEC crimes, Colin Radcliffe stated that:

It's not kept up with modern society and it needs to reflect modern society and modern ways of offending. Yeah, it's sometimes difficult to prove the existing offences. There is an offence, for example, of sexual activity in the presence of the child under the Sexual Offences Act. The law for that says that the child must know that that sexual activity is taking place. So, someone who is undertaking sexual activity while that child is asleep, it's difficult to prove that that child was aware, so therefore you can't prosecute under that Act and Section when sometimes that might be the only offence you've really got. So, there are gaps within legislation that need to be addressed. - (Interview #2).

1.1. Obscene Publications Act (1959)

The Obscene Publications Act (1959) establishes offences of taking, making, distributing, or publishing indecent images or pseudo-images of children, as well as possession of an indecent image of a child (Crown Prosecution Service, 2019). This Act can be invoked to investigate and prosecute OSEC and child sexual abuse material (CSAM). For example, in *R. v Fellows (Alban)* [1997] 2 All E.R. 548; [1996] 9 WLUK 196 (CA (Crim Div)), the defendant stored 1,875 pictures of children engaged in various sexual acts or poses on a computer. Although it was argued that a 'photograph' (the language used in the Act) could not include computer data, the Court of Appeal rejected this argument, holding that recent technical developments should be considered within the scope of this legislation, and that for the purpose of this Act 'photograph' includes digitally stored images (Gringras, 1996).

1.2. Protection of Children Act 1978

The Protection of Children Act 1978 (PCA) seeks to keep children from being involved in the making or distributing of obscene images or films by making it illegal. The PCA was intended to reduce and eliminate the exploitation and abuse of children through trading in, or possession of, such materials (Antoniou, 2013, p. 338).

Section 1 of the PCA establishes the principal offence, wherein a person commits an offence if they take, or permit to be taken, distribute or possess an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child (Selfe, 2007). Although the offence was formulated to address physical photographs, this provision is considered wide enough to cover images stored on a computer or software (Hillman, Hooper, & Choo, 2014). Further, a photograph for the purposes of the PCA is also interpreted broadly to include digital imagery and advancements in computing (ibid).

The PCA was amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to address the challenges posed by the advances in the technology. With these amendments, the definition of 'photograph' was extended to cover:

- Data stored on a computer disc or by other electronic means which is capable of conversion into a photograph; and
- Pseudo-photographs whether made by computer-graphics or otherwise, which appear to be photographs.

Section 1 of the PCA requires the existence of a deliberate and intentional act with the knowledge that the photograph or image is, or is likely to be, an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child (Gillespie, 2005). In practice, the courts have interpreted Section 1 of the PCA widely enough to find that the following acts constituted an offence under this provision:

- › In *R v Smith* [2003] 1 Cr. App. R. 13, it was held that opening an attachment to an email containing an indecent image of a child constituted an offence.
- › In *R v Jayson* [2002] 1 Cr. App. R. 13, it was held that downloading an indecent image of a child from a website onto a computer screen constituted an offence.
- › In *Atkins v DPP; Goodland v DPP* [2000] 2 Cr. App. R. 248, it was held that storing an indecent image of a child in a directory on a computer may constitute an offence, depending on where that image is stored. It was also indicated that this can be considered for a possession charge under Section 160 of Criminal Justice Act 1988 (see below).
- › In *R v Harrison* [2008] 1 Cr. App. R. 29, it was held that an offence was committed by accessing a pornographic website in which indecent images appeared by way of automatic pop-up mechanism.
- › In *R v Goldman* [2001] EWCA Crim 1684, it was held that making an order in response to an advertisement offer to supply indecent photographs of children constituted an offence because it incited to distribute such images, despite the willingness of those making the offer to supply such images.
- › In *R (on the application of O'Shea) v Coventry Magistrates Court* [2004] EWHC 905 Admin), it was held that an order to obtain indecent photographs constituted an offence even when such order was processed *automatically* by means of a computer system.

1.3. Criminal Justice Act 1988

Section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (CJA) introduced an important supplementary offence of 'possession'. This provision makes it an offence if a person has an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child under the age of eighteen in his/her possession (Akdeniz, 2007). The purpose of this provision was explained in *R v Michael Land* [1997] EWCA Crim 2409:

Potential damage to the child occurs when he or she is posed or pictured indecently, and whenever such an event occurs the child is exploited. It is the demand for such material which leads to the exploitation of children and the purpose of the Act is to reduce, indeed as far as possible to eliminate, trade in or possession of it.

In *R v Porter (Ross Warwick)* [2006] EWCA Crim 560, the Court of Appeal held that a person would not be considered to have possession of an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph if it was sent to him without his prior request of such material or he did not keep that material for an unreasonable time. The most recent authority on Section 160 of the CJA 1988 is *R v Okoro (No. 3)* [2018] EWCA Crim 19, which clarified the case law in terms of 'possession'. In this case, the Court of Appeal held that in the determination of possession:

- The indecent photograph must be in the custody or control of the suspect. This means that they should be capable of accessing, or in a position to retrieve the image(s); and
- The suspect must have known that they possessed an image or group of images on the relevant device or devices (Crown Prosecution Service, 2020).

1.4. Sexual Offences Act (2003)

The Sexual Offences Act (2003) (SOA) is another significant piece of legislation relevant to OSEC. The SOA is the primary legislation on sexual offences in the UK and is also applicable to child sexual offences. Sections 5 to 8 of the SOA cover sexual offences against children under the age of 13. These offences include:

- Rape of a child under 13 (Section 5);
- Assault of a child under 13 by penetration (Section 6);
- Sexual assault of a child under 13 (Section 7); and
- Causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity (Section 8).

The SOA also created a further category of offences by criminalising sexual activity with children under the age of sixteen under Sections 9 to 15. These offences include:

- Sexual activity with a child (Section 9);
- Causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity (Section 10);
- Engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child (Section 11);
- Causing a child to watch a sexual act (Section 12);
- Child sex offences committed by children or young persons (Section 13);
- Arranging or facilitating commission of a child sex offence (Section 14); and
- Sexual communication with a child (Section 15A).

Further, Sections 47 to 50 of the SOA are specifically designed to protect children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the sex industry or through prostitution and pornography (Crime Prosecution Service, 2022). Although the sexual consent age is set at 16 in the UK, these provisions remain applicable to children under the age of 18 (*ibid*). The offences under Sections 47 to 50 include:

- Paying for the sexual services of a child (Section 47);
- Causing or inciting sexual exploitation of a child (Section 48);
- Controlling a child in relation to sexual exploitation (Section 49); and
- Arranging or facilitating sexual exploitation (Section 50).

Section 51 of the SOA provides the definition of child sexual exploitation for the purpose of offences under Sections 48 to 50 of the Act. According to this provision, a child is 'sexually exploited' when the child offers or provides sexual services to another person in return for payment or a promise of payment, or an indecent image of the child is recorded or streamed or otherwise transmitted. Section 51 is significant as it defines sexual exploitation to include situations where images are streamed or otherwise transmitted by technological means, such as the Internet or CCTV. (Crime Prosecution Service, 2022). The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) notes that 'prosecutors may also want to consider these provisions [Sections 47 to 51] when dealing with live-streamed abuse of children' (*ibid*).

1.5. Serious Crime Act 2007

The Serious Crime Act 2007 is particularly relevant to investigation and prosecution of OSEC because Sections 44 to 46 can be invoked to convict someone who has viewed live streaming of OSEC. Section 44 provides an offence if someone encourages or assists the commission of a crime. Sections 45 and 46 provide an offence if someone encourages or assists the commission of an offence with a belief that one or more offences will be committed.

The CPS indicates that a person who viewed live streamed serious sexual abuse can be prosecuted under Sections 44 and 45 of the Serious Crime Act 2007 because the evidence of ‘viewing’ can be used as an act of ‘encouraging or assisting an offence’ (Crown Prosecution Service, 2020). However, such a prosecution would also need other evidence rather than simply relying on ‘passively viewing live-streamed abuse’ (ibid). The CPS encourages prosecutors to consider each case based on its own facts and merits, as well as examining other evidence such as ‘chatroom’ conversations with response or interaction between abuser and viewer, and financial payments involved in these crimes (ibid). Therefore, OSEC can also be prosecuted under Sections 44 to 46 of the Serious Crime Act 2007 when the evidence indicates something a little more than passively viewing live streamed abuse.

If offences such as OSEC are encouraged or assisted outside of England and Wales, offenders can still be prosecuted in England and Wales, provided the Attorney General’s consent is obtained under Schedule 4 of Serious Crime Act 2007. This means that people who encourage or assist OSEC in the Philippines or other countries can be prosecuted and convicted in the UK.

1.6. Coroners and Justice Act 2009

Section 62 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, which came into effect on 6 April 2010, makes it a crime to possess any kind of image depicting child sexual abuse, including computer-generated child sexual abuse images, manga drawings, private cartoons, and illustrations. This provision defines an image to include both moving and still images, as well as data that can be transformed into either a moving or still image. The intention behind Section 62 was to address the demand for non-photographic images of child sexual abuse, publication and distribution of which was already illegal in the UK under the Obscene Publications Act 1959. The added value of Section 62 is to criminalise the ‘possession’ of such materials (Antoniou, 2013).

2. Prosecuted OSEC cases in the United Kingdom

As part of this study, public reports on OSEC cases prosecuted in the UK were collected and analysed. OSEC cases were collected through the search of legal databases, in which we identified prosecutions under the different legislation relevant for OSEC crimes. We also used Crown Prosecution Service and National Crime Agency websites to find reported cases of successful investigations and prosecutions. Finally, cases were also found using internet searches. For all cases, multiple sources were collected to gain a full understanding of the case and offence. Sources included UK Government Strategy documents, reports by the International Justice Mission, the Sex Offender Database, BBC News, and other news media.

This analysis provides an overview of emerging themes from 30 cases of British offenders involved in OSEC crimes. While this is a good number to provide an analysis of emerging themes, we anticipate that there are more prosecuted OSEC cases within the UK for which information was not publicly available. Thus, the 30 cases reviewed do not provide an accurate reflection of all prosecuted cases in the UK.

Although we have reviewed 30 cases, the number of offenders involved in these cases are higher because more than one offender may have been prosecuted in a single case. One example of this was in 2014, when seventeen British nationals were arrested due to involvement in an OSEC network in the Philippines. This report gathered information on three of those arrests and subsequent prosecutions, but there was limited information publicly available surrounding the remaining fourteen British nationals.

The cases reviewed in this study are separated into two groups for analysis:

- 28 cases involving British offenders who purchased OSEC in the Philippines; and
- Two cases involving British offenders who purchased and/or facilitated OSEC in other countries.

Table 2: Summary of OSEC cases prosecuted in the United Kingdom²

#	Gender	Age	Date of offending	Date of sentencing	Payment method	Communication platform	Imprisonment	On license	SOL	SHPO
1	Male	59	2018-2020	2022	Unknown	Unknown	19 years	6 years	Yes	Yes
2	Male	70	2013-2017	2019	Western Union	Cherry Blossom; Skype	3 years 6 months	-	Yes	Yes
3	Male	42	2017-2018	2019	Unknown	Skype; WhatsApp	5 years	-	Yes	Yes
4	Male	56	2015-2018	2019	World Remit	Skype	4 years 8 months	-	Yes	Yes
5	Male	30	2017-2018	2019	Unknown	Adult websites	11 years	-	-	-
6	Male	39	2011-2015	2018	Unknown	Skype	18 years	8 years	Yes	Yes
7	Male	68	2017-2019	2022	Chaturbate	Chaturbate; Skype	3 years	-	Yes	Yes
8	Male	70	2011-2018	2022	Unknown	Unknown	10 months	10 months	-	-
9	Male	55	2007-2009	2010	Unknown	Unknown	12 years (on appeal)	-	Yes	Yes
10	Male	63	2016-2019	2022	Western Union	Skype	18years (on appeal)	-	-	Yes
11	Male	60	-	2021	Western Union	Skype	13 years	1 year	-	-
12	Male	59	2012-2014	2023	Unknown	Skype	12 years	3 years	-	-
13	Male	63	2015-2017	2021	Unknown	Skype	18 years	-	Yes	-
14	Male	68	2017-2019	2021	Unknown	Skype	12 years	4 years	-	-
15	Male	38	-	2022	Unknown	Facebook Messenger	20 months	-	-	Yes
16	Male	64	2014-2017	2019	Unknown	Skype	19 years 6 months	4 years	Yes	-
17	Male	60	2007-2015	2016	Unknown	Unknown	28 years	-	-	-
18	Male	54	Unknown	2012	Unknown	Unknown	5 years	4 years	Yes	Yes
19	Male	58	2015-2018	2020	Unknown	Unknown	4 years	-	Yes	Yes
20	Male	50	2017-2018	2022	Unknown	Unknown	4 years 9 months	-	Yes	Yes
21	Male	53	2012	2014	Unknown	Skype	5 years 11 months	-	Yes	Yes
22	Male	51	2013-2017	2019	Unknown	Skype	9 years	6 years	-	-
23	Male	52	2011	2013	Unknown	Gigatribe	8 years 6 months	6 years	-	-
24	Male	33	2011	2013	Unknown	Gigatribe	7 years	-	Yes	-
25	Male	68	2013	2013	PayPal	Skype	14 years	-	Yes	Yes
26	Male	48	Unknown	2016	Unknown	Skype	2 years 6 months	-	-	Yes
27	Male	63	2005-2015	2017	Unknown	Unknown	9 years	3 years	-	-
28	Male	69	2012	2014	Unknown	Unknown	3 years 4 months	-	Yes	-
29	Female	30	Unknown	2019	Unknown	Unknown	12 years 4 months	-	-	-
30	Female	33	Unknown	2019	Unknown	Skype	6 years	-	Yes	Yes

² Details of OSEC cases prosecuted in the UK are further summarised in Annex I.

2.1. Prosecuted OSEC cases concerning the Philippines

Of the 30 cases reviewed in this study, 28 cases included British offenders who purchased OSEC in the Philippines. These 28 cases showed that prosecutions for purchasing/facilitating OSEC crimes in the Philippines dated between 2010 and 2022, with offences being committed as early as 2005.

2.1.1. Offender profile

Of the 28 cases concerning OSEC in the Philippines, all offenders were male and were aged between 33-70, with an average age of 53. Offenders were generally located across the entire United Kingdom, except for five offenders located in the East Midlands and five in the Southeast.

During the time of offences, three of the offenders were living abroad and were arrested and prosecuted on their return to the United Kingdom. Those living abroad at time of offence were living in Thailand, Shanghai, and Iraq.

In the 28 cases, five offenders had previous convictions involving the abuse of children. Two offenders had a conviction history involving making indecent images of children, three offenders had a conviction history of child sexual abuse, and one offender was prosecuted for attempting to engage in sexual activity with a child.

Text box 1: Example offender profile

The offender was previously prosecuted for attempting to engage in sexual activity with a child and was sentenced for six-months (suspended for 24 months) in 2018. It was found that three of the new charges against the offender related to offences committed prior to the offender's previous conviction, which the Police were unaware of at the time.

(United Kingdom – Case No. 8)

2.1.2. Victim profile

For all 28 cases, the OSEC offences involved children from the Philippines. Of these cases, seven cases also involved children from other countries including: Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Ghana, Iraq, Morocco, Turkey, Romania, Cyprus, and the United Kingdom.

The children who were victim to these crimes were both males and females aged between seventeen months and sixteen years old. Of the 28 cases, 27 involved multiple child victims of OSEC crimes.

Text box 2: Example of Victim Profile

The offender was found to have used internet messaging services to direct live streamed sexual abuse. The offender made recordings of the serious sexual offences, including rape, of children as young as 17-months old.

(United Kingdom – Case No. 17)

2.1.3. Facilitator profile

There was little information available to build a profile of the characteristics of facilitators within reported cases prosecuted in the UK. Of the 28 cases, six identified the facilitators to be the mothers of the victims, one case identified the facilitator to be the father of the victims, and two cases identified both parents to be facilitating OSEC crimes. Female non-parental facilitators were identified in six cases, and male non-parental facilitators were identified in two cases. There were 10 cases that provided no characteristics of the facilitators beyond them being located in the Philippines. Finally, there were two cases that involved the offender directly communicating with children, and four cases in which the offender contacted facilitators in multiple countries.

2.1.4. Payments for OSEC

Across the 28 cases, only six reported the payment methods used by offenders to purchase OSEC in the Philippines. Of these six cases, three used Western Union, one used PayPal, one used World Remit, and one used an online adult site called Chaturbate.

Ten of the cases reported the total amount of money that the offenders had spent on the purchase of OSEC. Total payments ranged from £863 to £260,000 and varied dependent on the length of offending period. Alongside this, seven of the cases reported the amount of money that the offenders had typically spent on a single purchase of OSEC, with individual payments ranging from £0.93 to £100. The remaining 11 cases did not identify any amount of payment made by offenders.

Text box 3: Examples of payments made for OSEC

The offender was found to have made international payments totalling £260,000 to the Philippines for the live streaming of child sexual abuse across a ten-year period, between 2005-2015.

(United Kingdom – Case No. 27)

The offender was found to have used Skype and an adult pornography website called 'Chaturbate', which provides live webcam performances of sexual acts, to pay for and stream the sexual abuse of children in the Philippines. The NCA found evidence that the offender paid between 1200-1500 PHP (£18-£23) per live stream.

(United Kingdom – Case No. 7)

2.1.5. Streaming platform

To communicate with facilitators and watch the live streaming of OSEC in the Philippines, offenders used a range of online platforms. Across the 28 cases, 14 involved the use of Skype, two used a file sharing site called Gigatribe, one used Facebook Messenger, one used WhatsApp, one used a dating website called Cherry Blossom, one used an adult pornography website called Chaturbate, and one used an unknown adult website. For eight cases, there was not a specific platform identified that was used for the live streaming of OSEC.

Text box 4: Example of streaming platform used for OSEC

The offender was arrested as part of an investigation into a file sharing website called 'Gigatribe'. Investigators found that the offender would set up a Skype link with a facilitator in the Philippines, to live stream the sexual abuse of girls aged between three years old and early teens, then would receive payment for others to share the stream.

(United Kingdom – Case No. 25)

2.1.6. Investigation

When looking at emerging themes in OSEC crimes, and investigations that lead to the prosecution of cases outlined above, there are several key categories. Of the 28 investigations, 16 cases were identified and investigated by the local police forces, eight were investigated by the NCA, three were investigated by the Police's Paedophile Online Investigation Team (POLIT), and one was investigated by Scotland's Specialist Crime Division's Public Protection.

All 28 cases involved the analysis of chat logs, which had been used by offenders to communicate with facilitators. Chat logs showed evidence of price negotiation, and age and gender specifications, and were used by offenders to direct the facilitator to conduct specific acts of child sexual abuse that they wanted to watch.

While all 28 cases involved live streaming of child sexual abuse in the Philippines, 23 also involved offenders having made indecent images of children and nine cases involved offenders having made video recordings of the sexual abuse of children. Authorities were able to use this evidence to corroborate that directions written on chat logs were part of the live streaming of sexual abuse, as screenshots and video recordings showed the specific directed abuse being conducted against children.

Across the 28 cases, the police were able to identify and use financial records in 22 cases. These financial records evidenced the payments made overseas by offenders, corroborating requested dates for live streaming and payments made and flagged suspicious payments to known facilitators in the Philippines.

Text box 5: Example of evidence uncovered in an investigation

Officers found 10,000 images and 356 videos of child sexual abuse on the offender's devices. The footage was described as being the worst kind imaginable, showing the abuse and torture of children as young as two years old. Investigation also found that the offender would write directions about what abuse should be conducted next on the child throughout the live-stream.

(United Kingdom – Case No. 9)

2.1.7. Conviction and sentencing

Sentencing of offenders ranged from prison terms of ten months to 28 years. Nine of the offenders were sentenced to a prison term of less than five years, eight offenders were sentenced to a prison term between five and ten years, and the final eleven offenders were sentenced to a prison term of ten years or more. Two of these cases were later appealed and led to an increased sentence, with one case being extended from five to twelve years, and the second case being extended from twelve to eighteen years.

Fifteen of the offenders are recorded to have been registered on the Sex Offenders List indefinitely, with the remaining thirteen offenders' registration unknown. Of the 28 cases, sixteen offenders were issued with a Sexual Harm Prevention Order—seven with an indefinite order, one with a twenty-year order, one with a fifteen-year order, and one with a five-year order. The length of order for the remaining six is unknown. It is unknown whether the additional twelve offenders were issued with a Sexual Harm Prevention Order.

Text box 6: Examples of offender sentencing

The offender was found guilty of 24 offences, which included:

- 4 counts of inciting a child under 13 in sexual activity.
- 2 counts of taking indecent photographs of a child.
- 1 count of assault of child under 13 by penetration.
- 4 counts of raping a child under 13.
- 1 count of holding moving indecent images of children.
- 1 count of holding still indecent images of children.
- 9 counts of arranging or facilitating the commission of a child sex offence.
- 2 counts of making indecent images of children.

The offender was sentenced to 28 years, with a minimum of 14 years served in prison

(United Kingdom – Case No. 17)

The offender was found guilty of 6 offences, which included:

- 1 count of intent to cause a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity.
- 1 count of causing or inciting a child under the age of 16 to engage in sexual activity.
- 1 count of arranging or facilitating a sexual offence against a child.
- 3 counts of possessing indecent images of children.

The offender was sentenced to 3 years and 6 months in prison, was placed on the Sex Offenders Register indefinitely, and was issued with a Sexual Harm Prevention Order.

(United Kingdom – Case No. 2)

2.2. Convictions of British offenders who conducted OSEC

Two cases involving British offenders who purchased and/or facilitated OSEC in countries other than the Philippines were identified in this study. This section focuses on identified cases of British offenders who conducted OSEC crimes in other countries to highlight emerging themes.

2.2.1. Offender profile

Due to the limited scope of the research, there were only two British offenders identified as being convicted of facilitating and conducting the online sexual exploitation of children in countries other than the Philippines. During the time of the offences, one offender was living in the UK and the other was living abroad in Cyprus. On the expiry of her visa and awareness of possible offences, the offender was deported back to the UK, where she was arrested and prosecuted for her crimes.

Both offenders were female and were aged 30 and 33 years. Both women were identified as conducting OSEC through an investigation into an offender (Case No.5) who had been purchasing OSEC in the UK and internationally. While located in different areas of the UK, due to the links to the same case, both women were prosecuted at Isleworth Crown Court.

2.2.2. Victim profile

Both offenders facilitated and conducted the sexual abuse of children under the age of 13. One offender conducted abuse on a single girl under the age of 13 across a three-year period. The second offender conducted the abuse on both a boy and girl under the age of 13, but it is unclear how many children were victims of the abuse.

2.2.3. Payments for OSEC

The payment method for both offenders was not reported within any publicly available reports. However, one offender received a total payment of £2,285 across the period of her offending. It is unclear how much money the second offender received, but it is claimed that she received the payment of £750 by one purchasing offender.

2.2.4. Streaming platform

One of the offenders was found to be using an online adult escorting and webcam service to facilitate and stream her sexual abuse of children, while the other offender was found to be using Skype.

2.2.5. Investigation

Both women conducted the live streaming of child sexual abuse that was purchased by the same offender (Case No.5). The investigation into the first female facilitator led to the discovery of the second female facilitator. Both cases were identified and investigated by the NCA.

Both cases involved the live streaming of sexual exploitation of children, and evidence of chat logs discussing the payments and directions of abuse were found in both cases. One offender was found to have created indecent images of children and video recordings of the sexual abuse, and one offender was found to be advertising the sale of videos of child sexual abuse online.

It is unclear whether the NCA were able to use the financial records of the offenders to evidence the payment for the sexual abuse in either of these cases.

Text box 7: Example of evidence uncovered in an investigation

The offender's electronic device was analysed and showed a chat log history with a buyer. The chat log contained discussions of how much she would be paid and what she should do to abuse the child. The electronic device also contained a video of the offender sexually abusing the child, and saved screenshots which showed at least 10 separate occasions in which a child was abused.

(United Kingdom – Case No. 30)

2.2.6. Conviction and sentencing

Both offenders were convicted of their crimes. One offender was prosecuted under Section 72 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which allows for the prosecution for offences committed outside of the United Kingdom. One offender was sentenced to six years in prison, and one offender was sentenced to twelve years and four months in prison.

One offender was registered on the Sex Offenders List indefinitely. Registration of the other offender is unknown. One offender was issued with a Sexual Harm Prevention Order, and whether the other offender was issued with an order is unknown.

Text box 8: Example of offender sentencing

The offender was found guilty of 9 offences:

- 1 count of sexual activity with a child under 13.
- 3 counts of distributing an indecent photograph/ pseudo-photograph of a child.
- 1 count of publishing an obscene article.
- 1 count of publishing an advert offering the sale of child sexual abuse videos.
- 1 count of conspiracy to sexually assault a boy under 13 by touching.
- 1 count of causing a child to engage in sexual activity.
- 1 count of sexually assaulting a girl under 13 by touching.

The offender was sentenced to 12 years and 4 months in prison.

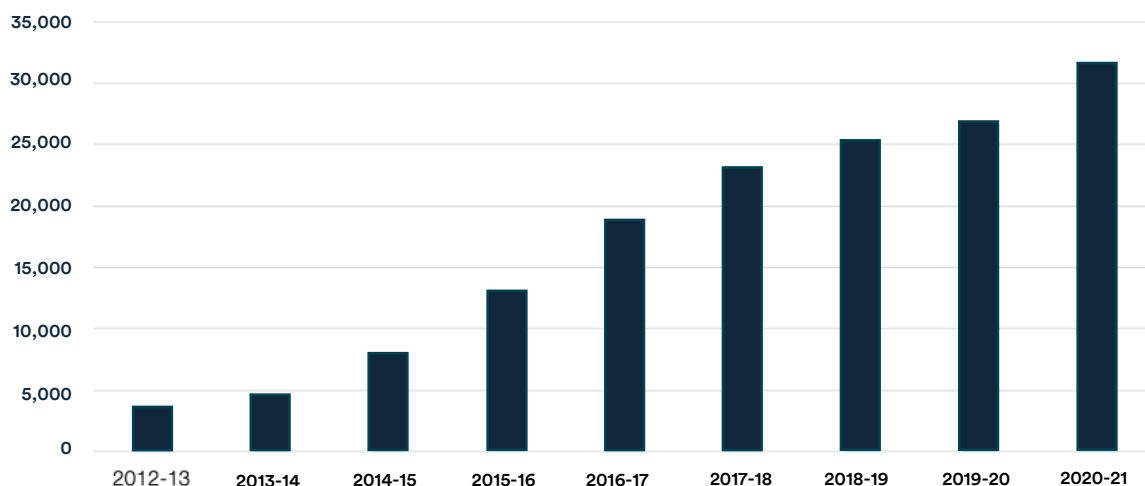
(United Kingdom – Case No. 29)



3. Investigation and prosecution of OSEC cases in the UK

In England and Wales, 31,712 cases of obscene publications offences were recorded by the police forces in England and Wales during 2020-21 (Skidmore, Aitkenhead, & Muir, 2022, p. 16). This represented an increase in obscene publications offences of more than 800% compared to the number recorded in 2012-13 (ibid). This dramatic increase is attributed to the surge in the number of recorded CSAM offences (ibid).

Figure 1: Volume of obscene publication offences recorded by police forces in England and Wales, 2012 to 2021³



*A minority of the recorded obscene publications offences will not pertain to indecent images of children

It is reported that a total of 18,766 CSAM offences were recorded in 2018, the vast majority of which (15,171 or 81%) were recorded as offences of taking, making, or distributing indecent images of children (ibid). This represented an average of 1,262 CSAM offences recorded monthly, which is a more than six-fold increase on the monthly averaged recorded in 2014 (ibid).

HM Government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy published in 2018 highlighted the scale of OSEC by stating that:

Any child can be a victim of abuse or exploitation and criminals are exploiting the huge growth in numbers of children with easy access to the internet. The stereotypes of the 'typical' child exploitation victim are further than ever from the truth. The exploitation of children online is becoming easier and more extreme. All ages are affected, from babies and toddlers through to older teenagers. Child sex offenders are becoming more sophisticated, using social media, image and file sharing sites, gaming sites and dating sites to groom potential victims. In response to law enforcement efforts to apprehend them, they are using encryption, anonymisation and destruction measures on the dark web and the open internet. Live-streamed abuse is a growing threat and children's own use of self-broadcast live-streaming applications are being exploited by offenders. - (HM Government, 2018, p. 13).

³ (Skidmore, Aitkenhead, & Muir, 2022).

3.1. Law enforcement

In the UK, the NCA is responsible for leading and organising the investigation of serious and organised crimes (National Crime Agency, n.d.). Within the NCA, Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP) was established in 2006 to respond to online child sexual abuse (CSA) (Shaw, n.d.). CEOP command brings together policing, child protection, and industry experts into a single platform to combat OSEC at both national and international levels through ‘specialist capabilities unavailable in other agencies’ (Skidmore, Aitkenhead, & Muir, 2022, p. 32). Up until 2015, CEOP had a specific focus on intelligence gathering, strategic assessment, and education. However, since 2015 onwards, CEOP has had a dedicated investigative team at its disposal to work on OSEC crimes (Interview #2). It is reported that the CEOP command had 278 staff and 43 secondees, with a budget of £17.97 million in 2018-19 (Jay, Evans, Frank, & Sharpling, 2020, p. 20).

Other local police forces in the UK, known as the National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC), are also responsible for addressing OSEC crimes. Their objective is identical to CEOP in terms of combatting OSEC, although they possess distinct capabilities compared to CEOP (Interview #2). The idea is that within the NCA, CEOP focuses on handling the higher level of complexity and difficulty. Colin Radcliffe from the NCA stated that ‘sometimes it becomes challenging to differentiate between less complex and more complex cases. It is important to be cautious in discussing this matter, as there is no definitive categorisation of this type of offense as being low level’ (Interview #2).

There is communication and collaboration between CEOP and local police forces in investigating OSEC cases. When dealing with OSEC crimes, CEOP develops an investigative response through the NCA or refers the case down to local policing. By developing appropriate investigative methods, the police unit working on the case is required to develop that into a prosecution, with the priority being to identify any children at risk and safeguard them (Interview #2).

The Police Foundation’s report in 2022 indicates that online CSA is addressed by specialist investigation teams established across law enforcement in England and Wales (Skidmore, Aitkenhead, & Muir, 2022, p. 32). It was stated by 73% of respondent law enforcement practitioners participating in the report that the majority of online CSA investigations included specialist CSA teams (ibid). It was further found that these specialist investigation teams mostly handle CSAM referrals by industry or other channels, using and adopting consistent systems and protocols to assess, prioritise, and develop intelligence for investigation (ibid).

Reporting across 29 police forces, the Police Foundation found that there was a total of 494 full-time staff working on online CSA, representing 1.8% of the total investigative workforce (26,770) in these 29 police forces (ibid, p.33). It was also found that there was an inconsistency in terms of allocation of specialist resources, ranging from 4.8% in one police force to 0.7% in another (ibid). Where there is a lack of a specialist team in a local police force, the investigation of online CSA is usually conducted by a non-specialist team (ibid).

In initiating and conducting the investigation, the NCA usually relies on reports and referrals from ClickCEOP and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). ClickCEOP is an online reporting tool available to the public to report online sexual abuse and exploitation directly to the NCA (Jay, Evans, Frank, & Sharpling, 2020, p. 20). The NCA also receives referrals from NCMEC—a non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in the US (NCMEC, n.d.). Under US law, electronic service providers (ESPs) in the US must send a report to NCMEC whenever they identify a child sexual abuse material on their networks (Jay, Evans, Frank, & Sharpling, 2020, p. 21). Reports are sent to the NCA wherever they relate to the UK. The NCA handles the most serious cases itself, passing others to local police forces (ibid).

The UK law enforcement collaborates with international and foreign law enforcement agencies to work together to tackle OSEC crimes. Colin Radcliffe from CEOP stated that:

We have a really, really good working relationships with numerous other law enforcement agencies. In some cases, we have embedded offices within those other countries to assist with the free flow of their intelligence and information. We work very closely with our colleagues, both European colleagues and international colleagues such as USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand to jointly investigate some of these cases. So, we don't work in isolation where we have that those crossovers internationally. And if you think about live streaming, the Western world is the biggest consumer of live streaming. So, it's incumbent on us really to do something about it. And, so, we do work collaboratively in many ways. - (Interview #2).

The UK also has a presence in the Philippines to address OSEC stemming from this region. The UK NCA is part of the Philippine Internet Crimes Against Children Center (PICACC)—a collaborative international effort to combat OSEC through an enhanced global response (UK Government, 2019). Further, there are NCA officers embedded in the Philippines to facilitate a two-way sharing of information in OSEC investigations (Interview #2).

3.1.1. Investigation challenges

The Police Foundation found that the biggest challenge in the investigation of OSEC is to gather sufficient evidence to locate a suspect to a crime (Skidmore, Aitkenhead, & Muir, 2022, p. 39). In OSEC crimes, suspects are usually identified by an online login, account number, or Internet Protocol (IP) address that digitally identifies an offender's access point to the Internet. Tracing these digital identifiers through requests made to the relevant web companies or internet service providers is usually considered the first step in initiating an investigation (ibid). Once a suspect's real-world name and whereabouts have been identified, law enforcement usually gathers evidence through the process of searching, seizing, and looking through internet-enabled devices (ibid). However, the mere attribution of a crime to a location or a device does not in itself attribute the crime to a specific individual if multiple users use the same access-points or devices, such as in the case of public access wi-fi in a hotel or a multi-occupancy household (ibid). Therefore, more evidence may be needed to prosecute offenders.

Law enforcement struggles to obtain digital evidence in relation to online CSA because of encryption tools and anonymisation methods (Jay, Evans, Frank, & Sharpling, 2020, p. 76). Live streaming causes a particular challenge to law enforcement agencies because it does not usually leave any digital trace unless it is recorded (ibid).

Proving the use of financial transactions for OSEC also poses a significant challenge for law enforcement. Although financial transaction records may be available in some cases, law enforcement is still required to show that payments were made for child sexual abuse. However, Colin Radcliffe from CEOP pointed out that:

Often, it can be difficult to prove who has received the payment because although it may be collected by a recognisable individual, that might be an individual for people removed from the offender that has taken place because that it will be passed on, passed on and passed on, and so actually getting to the point of origin of any child sexual abuse can be challenging. - (Interview #2).

UK law enforcement reported that access to relevant information and data is another challenge for effective investigation of OSEC crimes (Skidmore, Aitkenhead, & Muir, 2022, p. 40). In the context of live streaming, Commander Smith from the Metropolitan Police Service stated that internet service providers and web companies:

...refused to provide any information regarding the offenders. While those offenders could no longer use their previous accounts to access the platform, there was nothing to stop them creating new accounts and to continue their previous offending. Without the police having access to data which might lead to the identification of offenders, [the Metropolitan Police are] unable to safeguard the children to whom offenders may have access. - (Jay, Evans, Frank, & Sharpling, 2020, p. 76).

Given the cross-border nature of OSEC crimes, the law enforcement agencies should be expected to collaborate with foreign authorities. The UK is party to a number of bilateral treaties on Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) in criminal matters (UK Government, n.d.).⁴ MLA is a method of cooperation between states for obtaining assistance in the investigation or prosecution of criminal offences, including accessing and obtaining materials required for successful investigation and prosecution of a crime (Home Office, 2023). However, UK law enforcement agencies have indicated that this process can sometimes be very slow, and that some private companies based overseas can be non-responsive (Jay, Evans, Frank, & Sharpling, 2020, p. 22).

In investigating online CSA, UK law enforcement usually relies on communication data in terms of the ‘who, where, when and how of a communication but not the content’ (ibid). Until 2019, UK law enforcement had to follow the procedure under the MLA treaty between the UK and the US because much of the communication data had to be gathered from the companies based in the US. This process was described by law enforcement as ‘cumbersome and lengthy’ because the acquisition of such data would usually take more than a year (ibid). However, a bilateral UK-US Data Access Agreement (DAA) was signed on 3 October 2019 (US Department of Justice, 2022). The UK-US DAA enables law enforcement to directly request data held by telecommunications providers in the US for the purpose of preventing, detecting, investigating, and prosecuting serious crimes—including child sexual abuse and exploitation (Home Office, 2022). The Home Office stated that:

In short, the DAA will provide relevant UK and US public authorities with timely, efficient and lawful cross-border access to data for the purpose of preventing, detecting, investigating and prosecuting the most serious crime. It will ensure criminals cannot hide their data behind jurisdictional barriers to conceal their criminal activities (ibid).

3.2. Extra-territorial jurisdiction

The general rule for UK criminal jurisdiction is that prosecution of offenders extends to crimes committed within the borders of the UK (Crown Prosecution Service, 2020). However, there is a significant exception to this rule allowing the prosecution of sex offenders who are UK nationals or residents, even when the offence is committed outside the UK (Crown Prosecution Service, 2022).

⁴ The UK has bilateral treaties on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with the following countries: Algeria; Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Australia; Bahamas; Bahrain; Barbados; Brazil; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Ecuador; Grenada; Germany; Guyana; Hong Kong; India; Ireland; Italy; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kuwait; Libya; Malaysia; Mexico; Morocco; Netherlands; Nigeria; Panama; Paraguay; Philippines; Romania; Sweden; Saudi Arabia; Spain; Thailand; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United States of America; Uruguay and Vietnam (see: UK Government, n.d.).

3.3. Investigation of financial transactions in OSEC cases

Given the complexity of gathering evidence in OSEC crimes, financial transactions can be used by law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute these crimes. The CPS highlighted this as follows:

[OSEC] usually involves an organised network. Abuse of children is carried out abroad and is streamed by offenders in the UK. This type of abuse is usually for financial gain – either by organised criminal networks and/or impoverished families. Prosecutors should consider obtaining suspects' bank statements as small and irregular amounts paid frequently by UK-based customers to recipients in developing countries tend to be the pre-emptive signs of this type of offending. - (Crown Prosecution Service, 2020).

Colin Radcliffe from CEOP underlined that 'the financial footprint is investigated as much as the online physical footprint' (Interview #2). When asked if the NCA coordinates with the financial sector to gather financial transaction data for the investigation and prosecution of OSEC crimes, he stated that:

There are laws in place in the UK that were brought in under money laundering legislation that allow us to make those inquiries if we have the justification for it. There are different levels of that, some of which require judge's Production Order to get that information. But there are also many memorandums of understanding and agreed service protocols between law enforcement and the financial sector. They will provide details where the justification exists and we work closely with a great many of them because they are as interested in their services, not being used for this type of criminality as we are. So, we work very, very closely with the financial sector, both in terms of legal productions and evidential productions, but also intelligence and proactive deploying. - (Interview #2).

In addition to direct inquiries to financial institutions, law enforcement also relies on Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) submitted to the NCA about known or suspected transactions related to money laundering or terrorist financing (The Law Society, 2023). Part 7 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) and Part 3 of the Terrorist Act 2000 provide the legal basis for receiving SARs. The UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU) has the duty of collecting, examining, and distributing intelligence gathered through SARs to law enforcement agencies both within the UK and overseas (National Crime Agency, n.d.). UKFIU sits within the NCA and plays a crucial role in this system, serving as the main point of contact for those submitting SARs and as a database of information that can aid law enforcement agencies in their work (ibid).

A SAR is a piece of information that notifies law enforcement about potentially suspicious actions by a client or customer. Such actions may suggest the involvement of money laundering or terrorist financing activities (National Crime Agency, 2021). SARs are considered crucial in providing valuable intelligence to law enforcement agencies, not just about economic crimes but also various other criminal activities (National Crime Agency, n.d.). The NCA indicated that SARs have been effective tools in identifying victims of fraud, individuals involved in sex offences, suspects of murder, missing persons, human traffickers and those involved in terrorist financing (ibid). SARs are usually submitted by financial institutions and professionals, such as accountants, solicitors, and estate agents, as well as private individuals who become aware of any suspicion or information regarding money laundering or terrorist financing (ibid).

In the UK, SARs are submitted through the NCA's SAR Online Portal.⁵ The UKFIU receives over 460,000 SARs annually, which are stored in a secure central database holding more than two million SARs (National Crime Agency, n.d.). The SARs are examined to obtain strategic and tactical intelligence, and the most sensitive SARs are identified and forwarded to the relevant agencies for further investigation (ibid).

When submitting SARs, different glossary codes are used to indicate the involvement or suspicion of financial transactions to specific crimes or predicate crimes. In terms of OSEC, the following two SAR glossary codes can be used:

- XXV3XX - Risk to children – including sexual abuse and exploitation; and
- XXMSHTXX - Modern slavery and human trafficking (National Crime Agency, 2021).

Submitting SARs relevant to OSEC crimes can be very useful to investigate these crimes because SARs can provide various piece of information, such as contact information, alternate identities, financial activities like investments, bank accounts, and other assets (National Crime Agency, n.d.). This information may lead to the initiation of new investigations or the improvement of ongoing operations (ibid). Further, SARs can aid in creating a geographic overview or trend of the susceptibility of a specific industry or item and can be utilised in scrutinising suspicious activities before and after a particular event (ibid).

The UKFIU has specifically addressed online child sexual abuse and exploitation. For example, The UKFIU stated that intelligence about an individual transferring funds to a recipient abroad, who was believed to be linked with the sexual exploitation of children, was utilised to initiate a criminal investigation (National Crime Agency, 2018, p. 11). If the UKFIU had not provided the initial information, the foreign law enforcement agencies would have been unaware of the suspected activity (ibid).

In 2018, the UKFIU was also involved in various significant initiatives, including collaborating with the Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) of Australia and the Philippines (AUSTRAC and the Anti-Money Laundering Council) to enhance knowledge of financial transactions linked to online child sexual abuse and exploitation (ibid). At the Egmont Group's July Plenary meeting—which consists of 154 financial intelligence units—the UKFIU proposed a project focusing on the financial transactions associated with online streaming of child exploitation (National Crime Agency, 2020, p. 14). The proposal was approved by the FIUs, and the UKFIU would lead the project in collaboration with the FIUs of Australia and the Philippines. The project aimed to generate strategic intelligence, facilitate international tactical intelligence exchanges, and develop indicators for the financial sector in terms of addressing OSEC (ibid). Whether this project has been completed is unclear, as no outputs were made publicly available.

Text box 9: Assessment of the work of UKFIU by the National Crime Agency

The UKFIU was very proactive in supplying a foreign financial intelligence unit (FIU) with valuable and timely reporting relating to child sexual exploitation. The results from enquiries conducted with financial service providers influenced a number of arrests of paedophiles as well as the disruption of paedophiles' streaming and selling online content internationally. The UKFIU received positive feedback for its support in helping the foreign FIU to apprehend individuals exploiting vulnerable children.

(National Crime Agency, 2019, p. 4)

⁵ The NCA's SAR Online Portal is available at: <[https://www.ukciu.gov.uk/\(feuj3545othglb45nj5uf2af\)/saronline.aspx](https://www.ukciu.gov.uk/(feuj3545othglb45nj5uf2af)/saronline.aspx)>

Within the NCA, the National Data Exploitation Capability (NDEC) works as a multidisciplinary team including data scientists, intelligence officers, and analysts to enhance the capabilities of the NCA and wider UK law enforcement (National Crime Agency, 2021, p. 22). To detect and disrupt serious and organised crime, including OSEC, the NDEC partners with other agencies to combine new data sources and use advanced data science (ibid). The importance of SARs for the NDEC's work is highlighted as follows:

NDEC is aware of an individual that has recently shared several images of serious sexual abuse of a child - we have a username and email but no real-world attribution. The SARs could potentially provide us with not only the real-world identity of the individual through matching an email or phone number but evidence that the individual is also in receipt of child benefit or is currently paying into a child trust fund. This would mean that there is now also potentially a child at risk and there is immediate safeguarding that needs to be considered. This can be achieved relatively quickly as we now have a real-world identity to a previously unknown offender, an address and a link between the shared images and the SAR subject. With this enhanced intelligence picture NDEC will work with its partners to action safeguarding measures and obtain the arrest warrants needed (ibid).



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Annex I: Summary of prosecuted OSEC cases in the United Kingdom

UK Case #1	Summary	The NCA discovered that the offender, aged 59, was contacting people from the Philippines and Indonesia to sexually abuse children and toddlers. It was found that he instructed facilitators as to how the abuse and exploitation would be carried out. Analysis of chat logs and financial records indicated that the offender had paid an individual in the Philippines to abuse a two-year-old child on multiple occasions in 2019. Video recordings of the interactions demonstrated his active direction of the abuse and his requests for particular sexual acts during the video calls.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 59
	Year of offence	2018-2020
	Year of sentencing	2022
	Payment (method/total)	\$125 per session
	Communication platform	Unknown
	Court	Croydon Crown Court
	Laws	Protection of Children Act 1987 Sec.1 Serious Crime Act 2007 S.44-46
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 13 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 count of making and possessing indecent images of children. • 10 counts of encouraging or assisting a child sex offence. • 1 count of distributing indecent images of children. • 1 count of taking or making indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children.
	Sentencing	19 years in prison, additional 6 years on license Placed on the Sex Offenders List indefinitely Issued with a Sexual Harm Prevention Order
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPS: https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/prosecutors-international-work-helps-convict-child-abusers-around-globe • BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-63567846 • Leicester Mercury: https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/paedophile-paid-see-children-young-7801868 	
UK Case #2	Summary	The NCA discovered that the offender made nearly 50 payments to a known Filipino child sexual abuse facilitator between January 2015 and July 2017. Upon searching the offender's laptop, the NCA found conversations discussing the live streaming of child sexual abuse on demand, and during a conversation in 2016 the offender discussed carrying out abuse himself whilst on a planned trip to the Philippines. The NCA were able to show that in 2015 the offender paid £31.41 to watch a 9-year-old girl be sexually abused over Skype. The NCA passed intelligence to their Filipino counterparts who took measures to protect six children between the ages of three and fourteen and arrested one person for facilitating child sexual abuse. The offender was arrested at Heathrow Airport, where he had planned to travel to the Philippines.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 70
	Year of offence	2013-2017
	Year of sentencing	2019
	Payment (method/total)	£15,009.00 Western Union
	Communication platform	Cherry Blossom Skype
	Court	Leeds Crown Court

	Laws	Protection of Children Act 1987 Sec.1 Serious Crime Act 2007 S.44-45
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 6 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 count of intent to cause a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity. • 1 count of causing or inciting a child under the age of 16 to engage in sexual activity. • 1 count of arranging or facilitating a sexual offence against a child 3 counts of possessing indecent images of children.
	Sentencing	3 years and 6 months in prison Placed on the Sex Offenders List indefinitely Issued with a Sexual Harm Prevention Order
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HM Government: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/973236/Tackling_Child_Sexual_Abuse_Strategy_2021.pdf • International Justice Mission: https://www.ijm.org.ph/assets/resource/IJM-Falling-Short-Demand-Side-Sentencing-for-OSEC-Full-2020.pdf • BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-48367917
UK Case #3	Summary	The NCA discovered that the offender was making payments to known facilitators who live streamed sexual abuse. Analysis of the offenders' electronic devices found the offender had made fifteen payments to abuse facilitators and had tried to arrange to travel to the Philippines to conduct the abuse himself over Skype and WhatsApp. The NCA found messages in which the offender had asked for posed photographs of children aged between nine and eleven. The offender also discussed his desire to sexual abuse a four-year-old girl. The offender was arrested at Manchester Airport as he flew into the UK from his home in Thailand.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 42
	Year of offence	2017-2018
	Year of sentencing	2019
	Payment (method/total)	Unknown
	Communication platform	Skype WhatsApp
	Court	Leeds Crown Court
	Laws	Sex Offences Act 2003 s.72
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 5 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 count of arranging/facilitating the commission of a child sex offence. • 3 counts of attempting to cause/incite a girl under 13 to engage in sexual activity. • 1 count of making an indecent image of a child.
	Sentencing	5 years in prison Placed on the Sex Offenders Register indefinitely Issued with a 5-year Sexual Harm Prevention Order
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Crime Agency: https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/five-years-in-jail-and-worldwide-travel-ban-for-british-teacher-who-wanted-to-abuse-young-philipino-children • International Justice Mission: https://www.ijm.org.ph/assets/resource/IJM-Falling-Short-Demand-Side-Sentencing-for-OSEC-Full-2020.pdf • Mirror: https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/teacher-who-wanted-abuse-girls-14995664 	

UK Case #4	Summary	Police arrested the offender and seized his electronic devices for investigation. The offender remotely controlled the devices to delete material as soon as it was connected to the Internet. Authorities found Skype chat data that showed the offender contacting women in the Philippines and asking them if they had daughters aged between five and twelve and requested that they perform sexual acts with adult males. The offender was found to have made 36 payments overseas between 2015-2018.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 56
	Year of offence	2015-2018
	Year of sentencing	2019
	Payment (method/total)	£2,000 World Remit
	Communication platform	Skype
	Court	Leicester Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 7 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 counts of arranging or facilitating the sexual exploitation of a child under 13. • 1 count of recording indecent images of children under 13. • 3 counts of making indecent images of children. • 1 count of distribution of indecent images of children.
	Sentencing	4 years and 8 months in prison Placed on the Sex Offenders Register indefinitely Issued with an Indefinite Sexual Harm Prevention Order
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Justice Mission: https://www.ijm.org.ph/assets/resource/IJM-Falling-Short-Demand-Side-Sentencing-for-OSEC-Full-2020.pdf • Leicestershire Live: https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/predatory-paedophile-paid-mums-naked-3125909 • UK Database: https://uk-database.org/2019/07/29/andrew-leigh-hinckley/ 	
UK Case #5	Summary	The NCA found the offender had made payments to two women to facilitate the live streaming of the sexual abuse of children. The offenders' electronic devices showed evidence of a chat log showing the offender had asked for the facilitator to perform sexual acts in front of young children. The offender paid one facilitator £2,285 to live stream the sexual abuse of a child at least ten times over a three-year period at his instruction. The offender was also found to have paid £750 to another facilitator to live-stream the sexual abuse of young children over a year. Further evidence was found on the offenders' personal hard drive, including a ten-minute-long video of the sexual abuse of a child.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 30
	Year of offence	2017-2018
	Year of sentencing	2019
	Payment (method/total)	£3,035
	Communication platform	Adult websites
	Court	Isleworth Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 11 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 count of conspiracy to sexually assault a boy under 13. • 2 counts of intentionally encouraging or assisting the commission of offences against a boy and girl under 13. • 2 counts of making indecent photographs of children. • 1 count of conspiracy to sexually assault a girl under 13. • 1 count of distribution of indecent images of a child. • 4 counts of making indecent photographs of a child.

	Sentencing	11 years in prison
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Justice Mission: https://www.ijm.org.ph/assets/resource/IJM-Falling-Short-Demand-Side-Sentencing-for-OSEC-Full-2020.pdf BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-49976157 Mirror: https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/paedophile-paid-woman-called-devil-20537471
UK Case #6	Summary	The offender was identified through his IP address on a website that was monitored by the Police. This resulted in the discovery of over 100 hours of recorded abuse in 107 individual files, with images of the offender sexually abusing a two-year-old child in 2011. Evidence was found that the offender would watch the abuse over Skype, typing instructions and often exposing himself. The offender was found to have sent £33,000 to the Philippines to pay for the live streamed child sexual abuse of up to 46 victims, aged between two and fifteen years.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 39
	Year of offence	2011-2015
	Year of sentencing	2018
	Payment (method/total)	£33,000
	Communication platform	Skype
	Court	Exeter Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	<p>Guilty of 17 offences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 counts of sexual assault on a child. 5 counts of causing a child to engage in sexual activity. 3 counts of arranging sexual offences against children. 7 counts of making or possessing indecent images of children.
	Sentencing	18 years in prison, 8-year extended license Placed on the Sex Offenders Register indefinitely Issued with an Indefinite Sexual Harm Prevention Order
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plymouth Herald: https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/how-police-caged-sick-paedophile-2111252 International Justice Mission: https://www.ijm.org/news/three-operations-in-four-days-bring-ten-children-to-freedom The Guardian: https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/oct/08/californian-policeman-helping-philippines-tackle-online-child-abuse-international-justice-mission 	
UK Case #7	Summary	The NCA found evidence of chat logs in which the offender directed facilitators to perform sexual abuse on children aged between thirteen and sixteen on at least four different occasions in 2017. The chat logs evidenced the offender requesting specific sexual acts by the facilitators, as well as directing the children to perform abuse on themselves and each other. The NCA found evidence that the offender had paid facilitators between 1200 and 1500 PHP (£18-£23) per live stream.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 68
	Year of offence	2017-2019
	Year of sentencing	2022
	Payment (method/total)	£18-23 per session Chaturbate
	Communication platform	Chaturbate Skype
Court	Southwark Crown Court	

	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	<p>Guilty of 8 offences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 counts of arranging and facilitating the commission of a child sex offence. • 3 counts of arranging or facilitating the sexual exploitation of a child.
	Sentencing	<p>3 years in prison Placed on the Sex Offenders Register indefinitely Issued with an Indefinite Sexual Harm Prevention Order</p>
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPS: https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/man-who-paid-children-be-sexually-abused-online-has-been-jailed-three-years • The Filipino Times: https://filipinotimes.net/latest-news/2022/07/09/man-who-paid-php-1500-per-session-to-abuse-filipino-kids-online-now-behind-bars/ • UK Database: https://uk-database.org/2022/07/09/graeme-wilson-barnet/
UK Case #8	Summary	<p>The offender was arrested after an investigation discovered more than 200 payments totalling £5,500 to facilitators in the Philippines and Ghana for the live streaming of child sexual abuse.</p> <p>The offender was previously prosecuted for attempting to engage in sexual activity with a child and was sentenced to six months in prison (suspended for 24 months) in 2018. Three of the new charges related to offences committed prior to the offender's previous conviction, which the Police were unaware of at the time.</p>
	Offender characteristics	Male, 70
	Year of offence	2011-2018
	Year of sentencing	2022
	Payment (method/total)	£5,500
	Communication platform	Unknown
	Court	Derby Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	<p>Guilty of 7 offences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 counts of making Category C indecent images of a child. • 1 count of making Category B indecent images of a child. • 2 counts of making Category A indecent images of a child. • 1 count of possessing a prohibited image of a child. • 1 count of breaching a Sexual Harm Prevention Order.
	Sentencing	20 months – 10 months in prison, 10 months on license
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-63033482 • Sex Offenders Database: https://offenders.org.uk/offender?id=2718 • Derby Telegraph: https://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/news/derby-news/jail-lonely-derby-pervert-disowned-7627623 	
UK Case #9	Summary	<p>The offender was arrested for directing the live streaming of child sexual abuse in the Philippines. On arrest, the police found 11,000 images and 356 films of child sexual abuse. Some of the images and films showed sexual abuse that the offender had typed into the chat on the computer. The video footage showed children as young as two years old being abused by adults. In one instance a child was tied down, abused, and tortured with a burning candle.</p>
	Offender characteristics	Male, 55
	Year of offence	2007-2009
	Year of sentencing	2010
	Payment (method/total)	£20 per session
Communication platform	Unknown	

	Court	Mold Crown Court
	Laws	Sexual Offences Act 2003 c. 42 s. 8
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 23 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 counts of making indecent photographs of a child. • 3 counts of causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity where no penetration was involved. • 1 count of causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity where penetration did occur.
	Sentencing	5 years in prison - increased to 12 years on appeal Placed on the Sex Offenders Register indefinitely Issued with a Sexual Harm Prevention Order
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10342621 • UK Database: https://uk-database.org/2012/06/13/michael-charnley-denbigh/ • Daily Post: https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/denbigh-child-porn-director-michael-2753788
UK Case #10	Summary	The offender was arrested after Facebook flagged some of his messages. On arrest, the Police found evidence of money transfers to the Philippines, the use of a webcam to contact victims aged twelve and thirteen, and messages in which the offender tried to haggle down the price for a sexual encounter with a twelve-year-old girl and thirteen-year-old boy, saying that 3,000 PHP (around £44) was too expensive. Two of the offences were live steamed sexual abuse, which the offender watched over Skype, and two of the offences involved sexual abuse conducted in the Philippines.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 63
	Year of offence	2016-2019
	Year of sentencing	2022
	Payment (method/total)	Western Union
	Communication platform	Skype
	Court	Teeside Crown Court
	Laws	Sexual Offences Act 2003 c. 42 s.9 Sexual Offences Act 2003 c.42 s.10 Sexual Offences Act 2003 c.42 s.14(1)
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 4 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 counts of arranging the commission of a child sex offence.
	Sentencing	12 years in prison – increased to 18 on appeal Issued with an Indefinite Sexual Harm Prevention Order
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown Prosecution Service: https://www.cps.gov.uk/north-east/news/ex-bbc-radio-1-presenter-convicted-child-abuse-skype • Sky News: https://news.sky.com/story/mark-page-ex-radio-1-dj-jailed-for-child-sex-offences-has-sentence-increased-to-18-years-12631341 • BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tees-61759987
UK Case #11	Summary	The offender was identified after the Pedophile Online Investigation team (POLIT) received intelligence he had been paying money into overseas accounts to purchase child sexual abuse materials. The investigation found a hard drive containing eleven images of child abuse, alongside Skype messages which outlined abuse that the offender wanted to see carried out on children. The directions included degrading violence on the children and found that on one occasion the offender asked for a break to buy cigarettes to smoke as he watched. The offender was found to have sent payments to facilitators for the live streaming of child sexual abuse on children as young as four-years old.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 60

	Year of offence	Unknown
	Year of sentencing	2021
	Payment (method/total)	Western Union
	Communication platform	Skype
	Court	Newcastle Crown Court
	Laws	Sexual Offences Act 2003 c.42 s.48 Protection of Children Act 1978 s. 1(1) (a)
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 4 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 counts of causing or inciting the sexual exploitation of a child. • 2 counts of making indecent photographs of a child.
	Sentencing	13 years in prison – 1 year extended on license
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex Offenders Database: https://offenders.org.uk/offender?id=3205 • BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-59040627 • Northumbria Police: https://beta.northumbria.police.uk/latest-news/2021/july/paedophile-who-paid-large-sums-to-watch-online-child-abuse-jailed-for-13-years/
UK Case #12	Summary	The offender was arrested following an investigation by Scotland’s Specialist Crime Division’s Public Protection in one of the first cases of an individual in Scotland directing child abuse abroad. The offender made payments for the live streaming of child sexual abuse and rape over Skype, on occasions lasting several hours. Evidence found the offender had requested that children be very young, had negotiated prices, and directed instructions as to how the abuse should be conducted. The victims were aged between four and ten years and were also made to sexually abuse each other, whilst the offender made recordings of the abuse taking place.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 59
	Year of offence	2012-2014
	Year of sentencing	2023
	Payment (method/total)	Unknown
	Communication platform	Skype
	Court	High Court in Edinburgh
	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	Guilty to 13 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 charges of sexual assault, causing female children to become providers of sexual services, and rape.
	Sentencing	12 years in prison - 3 year extended on license
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judiciary of Scotland: https://judiciary.scot/home/sentences-judgments/sentences-and-opinions/2023/03/24/hma-v-gary-campbell • The Herald Scotland: https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/23411501.gary-campbell-scot-jailed-directing-child-abuse-philippines/ • Care Appointments: https://careappointments.com/care-news/scotland/193658/man-jailed-for-directing-online-child-abuse-in-philippines-from-home-in-the-highlands/

UK Case #13	Summary	Police initially found that the offender made 127 payments to the Philippines, totalling around £5,500. However, the NCA later discovered £10,000 that had been transferred by the offender for the live streaming of child sexual abuse. The NCA found thousands of text messages, chat history, financial records, and indecent images on the offenders' electronic devices. The offender was found to have paid for the live streaming of child sexual abuse of at least eleven young girls between the ages of ten and twelve.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 63
	Year of offence	2015-2017
	Year of sentencing	2021
	Payment (method/total)	£15,000+
	Communication platform	Skype
	Court	Isle of Wight Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	<p>Guilty of 20 offences, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 counts of paying for the sexual services of a girl under 13. • 2 counts of causing or inciting the sexual exploitation of a child under 13. • 2 counts of intentionally encouraging/assisting the commission of an either way offence and three counts of making indecent photographs/pseudo photographs of a child. • 3 counts of paying for the sexual services of a girl under 13 (penetration). • 2 counts of paying for the sexual services of a girl under 13 (no penetration). • 1 count of attempting to pay for the sexual services of a girl 13 to 15 (no penetration). • 1 count of paying for the sexual services of a girl aged 16/17.
	Sentencing	18 years in prison Placed on the Sex Offenders Register Indefinitely
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-56319473 • Wales Online: https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/uk-news/former-business-chief-jailed-live-19987008 • Isle of Wight County Press: https://www.countypress.co.uk/news/19139044.behind-bars----peter-tomlinson-jailed-horrific-child-sex-offences/ 	
UK Case #14	Summary	The offender was arrested by the Police's Pedophile Online Investigation Team (POLIT). POLIT and NCA found that the offender had made 86 payments to facilitators of child sexual abuse in the Philippines. Examination of the offenders' devices found evidence of the offender using Skype to contact the facilitator, receive indecent images, and watch the live streaming of child sexual abuse of victims aged between six and nine years old.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 68
	Year of offence	2017-2019
	Year of sentencing	2021
	Payment (method/total)	£2,916.37
	Communication platform	Skype
	Court	Bournemouth Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	<p>Guilty of 67 offences, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple counts of paying for the sexual services of a child, causing or inciting child prostitution or pornography, and making indecent images of a child
Sentencing	12 years in prison, 4 years on license	

	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10204457/British-pensioner-68-jailed-12-years-relating-sexual-exploitation-child-Philippines.html ITV News: https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2021-11-16/bournemouth-man-jailed-for-more-than-60-child-exploitation-offences Bournemouth Daily Echo: https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/19717082.bournemouth-man-jailed-67-child-sexual-offences/
UK Case #15	Summary	The offender used Facebook messenger to contact children as young as ten years old. The offender has been contacting young boys all over the world, including the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Iraq, Morocco, Turkey and others. The offender was arrested by the NCA after arranging to pay for a boy to travel to Malaysia so they could meet.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 38
	Year of offence	Unknown
	Year of sentencing	2022
	Payment (method/total)	Unknown
	Communication platform	Facebook Messenger
	Court	Liverpool Crown Court
	Laws	Sex Offences Act 2003 s.72
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 4 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 counts of sexual communication with a child under 16 years. 1 count of inciting the sexual exploitation of a child.
	Sentencing	20 months in prison Issued with a 15-year Sexual Harm Prevention Order
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sky News: https://news.sky.com/story/british-headteacher-who-groomed-four-children-worldwide-jailed-12703638#:~:text=On%20Tuesday%2C%20he%20was%20sentenced,prev%20order%20for%2015%20years. BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-63002994 St Helens Star: https://www.sthelensstar.co.uk/news/22564980.wirral-head-teacher-jailed-messages-grooming-least-131-children-worldwide/ 	
UK Case #16	Summary	The offender was arrested after receiving intelligence suggesting the offender was involved in the streaming of illegal videos. From examining the offenders' electronic devices, police found 162 indecent images of children, and 31 extreme pornographic images. Evidence also found the offender had distributed twelve indecent images of children using Skype. The offender was also found to have paid for at least fifteen live streams of the sexual abuse of children in the Philippines.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 64
	Year of offence	2014-2017
	Year of sentencing	2019
	Payment (method/total)	Unknown
	Communication platform	Skype
	Court	Chester Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
Charges/convictions	Guilty of 21 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 counts of facilitating the commission of child sex offences. 3 counts of downloading indecent images. 2 counts of possession of prohibited images of a child. 1 count of possession of extreme pornographic images. 	

	Sentencing	19 years and 6 months in prison, 4 years on license Placed on the Sex Offenders Register Indefinitely
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheshire Police: https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cy-GB/news/cheshire/news/articles/2019/12/man-jailed-for-directing-the-sexual-abuse-of-children-during-live-streams/ BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-50810590 Manchester Evening News: https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/uk-news/paedophile-jailed-directing-online-sexual-17430835
UK Case #17	Summary	The offender was arrested and found guilty of facilitating child sex offences, paying for child sex, raping children, making indecent videos of children, and possessing indecent images of children. Police found evidence of the offender directing live streamed sexual abuse of children as young as seventeen months old. Evidence established that the offender would use Internet messaging services and record himself committing the offences. Due to the number of charges, the case was split into three trials. The first dealt with offences in the Philippines, the second related to the possession of images, and the third involved offences over the Internet.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 60
	Year of offence	2007-2015
	Year of sentencing	2016
	Payment (method/total)	Unknown
	Communication platform	Unknown
	Court	Dorchester Crown Court
	Laws	Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.1, s.5, s.6, s.10, s.14 and s.47 Criminal Justice Act 1988 s.160 Protection of Children Act 1978 s.1
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 24 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 counts of inciting a child under 13 in sexual activity. 2 counts of taking indecent photographs of a child. 1 count of assault of a child under 13 by penetration. 4 counts of raping a child under 13. 1 count of holding moving indecent images of children. 1 count of holding still indecent images of children. 9 counts of arranging or facilitating the commission of a child sex offence. 2 counts of making indecent photographs of a child.
	Sentencing	28 years - minimum 14 years in prison
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Guardian: https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/aug/31/dorset-man-jailed-14-years-philippines-child-sex-abuse BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-37230848 Dorset Echo: https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/14670190.david-francis-shepherd-from-west-dorset-convicted-of-13-charges-involving-young-girls-in-the-philippines/ 	
UK Case #18	Summary	The offender met women on online chat rooms and in the Philippines. The offender promised money or gifts to mothers to see film of their daughters in the shower, sleeping naked in their beds, and asking to see their genitalia. In one recorded chat, the offender asked the child's age, and on being told she was five years old, the offender asked to see her genitalia.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 54
	Year of offence	Unknown
	Year of sentencing	2012

	Payment (method/total)	Unknown
	Communication platform	Unknown
	Court	Cardiff Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	Counts of child prostitution (unknown number) Counts of possessing indecent photos of children (unknown number) Counts of commissioning child sex offences. (unknown number)
	Sentencing	9 years – 5 years in prison, and 4 on extended license Placed on the Sex Offenders Register Indefinitely Issued with an indefinite Sexual Harm Prevention Order.
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wales Online: https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/pervert-john-crotty-jailed-arranging-2032039 UK Database: https://uk-database.org/2012/04/12/john-crotty-bargoed/ Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11226585/British-man-64-arrested-broadcasting-live-child-sex-abuse-Philippines.html
UK Case #19	Summary	The offender was arrested by the Police Online Investigation Team (POLIT) after receiving information that Internet at the address was being used to access images and videos of child abuse. On examination of the offenders' electronic devices, police found over 140 indecent images of children, and messages from the offender to facilitators in the Philippines in which he arranged and paid to watch live streamed sexual abuse of children.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 58
	Year of offence	2015-2018
	Year of sentencing	2020
	Payment (method/total)	Unknown
	Communication platform	Unknown
	Court	Ipswich Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 13 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 counts of arranging and facilitating the sexual exploitation of children. 3 counts of making indecent images of children. 1 count of possession of an incident image of a child. 1 count of possession of an image of extreme pornography.
Sentencing	4 years in prison Placed on the Sex Offenders Register Indefinitely Issued with an Indefinite Sexual Harm Prevention Order	
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Anglian Daily Times: https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/21330939.paedophile-paid-watch-children-philippines-perform-sex-acts-screen/ Gazette Standard: https://www.gazette-news.co.uk/news/18875521.langham-pervert-paid-philippine-live-stream-child-sex-abuse-shows/ Planet Radio: https://planetradio.co.uk/greatest-hits/essex/news/essex-paedophile-jailed-for-child-sex-abuse/ 	
UK Case #20	Summary	The offender was found to be directing the sexual abuse of children in the Philippines and Romania. Examination of the offenders' electronic devices found evidence of chat logs in which the offender instructed facilitators to perform specific sexual acts on children during a live stream. The victims of the offender were children aged seven and eight years old.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 50
	Year of offence	2017-2018
	Year of sentencing	2022

	Payment (method/total)	Unknown
	Communication platform	Unknown
	Court	St Albans Crown Court
	Laws	Sexual Offences Act 2003 c.42 s.48 (1) Criminal Attempts Act 1981. S1 (1)
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 2 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 counts of attempting to cause the sexual exploitation of a child.
	Sentencing	4 years and 9 months in prison Placed on the Sex Offenders Register Indefinitely Issued with a 10-year Sexual Harm Prevention Order
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITV News: https://www.itv.com/news/utv/2022-06-30/ni-comedian-jailed-over-paying-for-horrific-abuse-of-vulnerable-children • Belfast Live: https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/eamon-goodfellow-paedophile-who-paid-24360930 • The Hertz Advertiser: https://www.hertsad.co.uk/news/20705394.st-albans-paedophile-jailed-trying-arrange-online-abuse/
UK Case #21	Summary	<p>The offender was arrested following an allegation that he abused a thirteen year old girl. The investigation examined the offenders' electronic devices and found a number of indecent images and films, including some categorised as extreme pornography. The police seized a computer from the offender's work premises, which revealed over 41,000 messages over Skype with facilitators in the Philippines, during which the offender directed the abuse of children. The offender would negotiate ages, prices, and the kind of acts he would like to see. Evidence found the offender asked multiple victims, as young as ten years old, to perform sexual acts on themselves or have them performed on them by others in front of a camera.</p> <p>The offender had previously been given an eight-month suspended sentence in 2013 for sexually abusing a young girl.</p>
	Offender characteristics	Male, 53
	Year of offence	2012
	Year of sentencing	2014
	Payment (method/total)	£5,880.99
	Communication platform	Skype
	Court	Harrow Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	13 charges of arranging and facilitating the commission of child sex offences
	Sentencing	5 years and 11 months in prison Placed on the Sex Offenders Register indefinitely Issued with a Sexual Harm Prevention Order
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mirror: https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/company-director-who-paid-kids-4583828 • UK Database: https://uk-database.org/2013/10/11/simeon-osen-chigwell/ • Guardian Series: https://www.guardian-series.co.uk/news/11586041.paedophile-jailed-six-years/

UK Case #22	Summary	The offender was found to have paid for the live streaming of sexual abuse of adults and children in the Philippines. Examination of the offenders' electronic devices found that the offender had downloaded indecent images and videos of sexual abuse. Evidence also showed the offender had incited the crimes himself and paid as little as £0.93 to watch a live streaming of child sexual abuse.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 51
	Year of offence	2013-2017
	Year of sentencing	2019
	Payment (method/total)	As little as £0.93 per session
	Communication platform	Skype
	Court	High Court in Glasgow
	Laws	Sexual Offences Act
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 5 offences
	Sentencing	9 years in prison, 6 on license
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49015971 Heart: https://www.heart.co.uk/scotland/news/local/man-who-livestreamed-child-sex-abuse/ The London Economic: https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/news/a-paedophile-who-was-first-person-in-britain-to-be-caught-live-streaming-child-sex-abuse-has-been-jailed-151162/
UK Case #23	Summary	<p>The offender was arrested as part of an investigation into a file sharing site called Gigatribe. The offender was found to be paying for the live streaming of sexual abuse of children in the Philippines, with boys as young as six years old. On examining the offenders' electronic devices, police found files containing videos of children performing sexual acts on themselves and on other children. The offender's voice could be heard in some of the videos as he spoke to the facilitators about payments, which was around £10 a session. The offender bought a share of a property in the Philippines and messages showed that he planned to open an internet café with accommodation that could be rented out by the hour. The offender made jokes online about setting up a travel agents called "Paedophile Vacations".</p> <p>The offender had previous convictions for sexual offences involving children in 1992, and for making indecent images of children in 2001.</p>
	Offender characteristics	Male, 52
	Year of offence	2011
	Year of sentencing	2013
	Payment (method/total)	£10 per session
	Communication platform	Gigatribe
	Court	Northampton Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	<p>Guilty of 25 offences, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counts of paying for sexual services from a child. Counts of arranging or facilitating the prostitution of a child.
	Sentencing	8 years and 6 months in prison, with extended 6 years on license
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/dark-reach-of-global-child-sex-ring-uncovered-in-uk-had-spread-from-us-to-philippines-9235879.html UK Database: https://uk-database.org/2013/03/19/timothy-ford-kettering/ The Irish Times: https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/asia-pacific/17-britons-arrested-over-philippines-web-child-abuse-ring-1.1657287

UK Case #24	Summary	<p>The offender was arrested as part of an investigation into a file sharing site called Gigatribe. On examination of the offenders' electronic devices, police found over 2.5 million indecent images of children, and over 16,000 films. The offender admitted being attracted to children wearing nappies and swimwear. Police also found evidence that the offender paid for the live streaming of the sexual abuse of a nine-year-old boy in the Philippines.</p> <p>The offender had previously been convicted for sexually abusing an eight year old boy in South Carolina when working as a volunteer and had been jailed for three years in 2003.</p>
	Offender characteristics	Male, 33
	Year of offence	2011
	Year of sentencing	2013
	Payment (method/total)	£863
	Communication platform	Gigatribe
	Court	Liverpool Crown Court
	Laws	
	Charges/convictions	<p>Guilty of 27 offences, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counts of inciting a child to commit indecent acts. • Counts of making, distributing, and possessing indecent images of children.
	Sentencing	<p>7 years in prison</p> <p>Placed on the Sex Offenders Register indefinitely</p>
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Irish Times: https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/asia-pacific/17-britons-arrested-over-philippines-web-child-abuse-ring-1.1657287 • The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/dark-reach-of-global-child-sex-ring-uncovered-in-uk-had-spread-from-us-to-philippines-9235879.html • Liverpool Echo: https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/dangerous-merseyside-paedophile-locked-up-5170307 	
UK Case #25	Summary	<p>The offender was the subject of a Sex Offender Prevention order following a case in August 2012 in which he pleaded guilty to five counts involving indecent images of children. Following this case, the police installed software on his computer to monitor his use. A few months later the police found the offender using Skype to talk to a naked woman in the Philippines who was with a naked girl aged between ten and twelve 12 years. The typed conversation showed the offender instructing the adult to commit sexual offences against the child. On investigating, the police found the offender had set up Skype link to the Philippines where he would instruct facilitators to rape and abuse girls aged between three years old and early teens and receive payment for others to view the stream.</p>
	Offender characteristics	Male, 68
	Year of offence	2013
	Year of sentencing	2013
	Payment (method/total)	£18 per session PayPal
	Communication platform	Skype
	Court	St Albans Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
Charges/convictions	<p>Guilty of 7 offences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 counts of arranging sex offences involving children. • 1 count of possessing indecent photographs of a child. • 1 count of breaching a sexual offences prevention order. 	

	Sentencing	14 years in prison Placed on the Sex Offenders Register indefinitely Issued with a 20-year Sexual Harm Prevention Order
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-25749326 BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-25446579 UK Database: https://uk-database.org/2012/08/30/michael-eller-berkhamsted/
UK Case #26	Summary	The offender was arrested by the NCA on suspicion of paying for indecent images of children and inciting sexual activity with children from the Philippines. From examining the offenders' electronic devices, investigators found 3,375 indecent images and videos of children as well as extreme adult pornographic images. The devices showed Skype chat records in which the offender discussing his sexual interest in children, requests for 'shows' with children via live streaming for payment, and requests that children be of certain ages. The offender had previously been convicted of seven counts of child sexual abuse.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 48
	Year of offence	Unknown
	Year of sentencing	2016
	Payment (method/total)	Unknown
	Communication platform	Skype
	Court	Luton Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	Unknown
	Sentencing	2 years and 6 months in prison Issued with a Sexual Harm Prevention Order
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Database: https://uk-database.org/2016/01/22/thomas-fairley-milton-keynes/ Milton Keynes Citizen: https://www.miltonkeynes.co.uk/news/man-jailed-for-live-streaming-child-sex-abuse-from-the-philippines-1275396 ABS-CBN News: https://news.abs-cbn.com/nation/regions/01/28/16/uk-jails-british-man-for-sexual-abuse-of-pinoy-kids
UK Case #27	Summary	The offender was arrested following a long police investigation which uncovered over 600,000 lines of chat communications which ordered the sexual abuse of children. The offender was found to develop online relationships with women in the Philippines who needed money. The offender would graphically describe how he wanted children to be sexually abused and to perform sexual abuse on each other in return for payment. The offender paid to watch live streaming of children as young as five being sexually abused in the Philippines.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 63
	Year of offence	2005-2015
	Year of sentencing	2017
	Payment (method/total)	£260,000
	Communication platform	Unknown
	Court	Guilford Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 17 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 counts of arranging or facilitating the commission of a child sex offence. 5 counts of making indecent images of children.
Sentencing	12 years, 9 of which in prison	

	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent.ie: https://www.independent.ie/news/paedophile-who-paid-to-watch-children-being-abused-live-online-jailed/35882525.html DailyMail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4655472/Paedophile-paid-260-000-watch-children-abused.html Surrey Live: https://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/paedophile-sent-more-260k-philippines-13265669
UK Case #28	Summary	The offender was arrested in 2014, and on examination of his electronic devices, it was found that the offender had 47 indecent images and videos of children on his computer. Investigations found a number of chat logs in which the offender had discussed paying for a live sex show with a youth in the Philippines. The offender transferred £20 for two thirteen-year-old boys to perform acts of sexual abuse and told the boys it was a great show.
	Offender characteristics	Male, 69
	Year of offence	2012
	Year of sentencing	2014
	Payment (method/total)	£20 per session
	Communication platform	Unknown
	Court	Leeds Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 6 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 counts of making indecent photographs. 1 count of causing child pornography.
	Sentencing	3 years and 4 months in prison Placed on the Sex Offenders Register indefinitely
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yorkshire Live: https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/mirfield-pensioner-brian-fox-jailed-7584916 UK Database: https://uk-database.org/2014/08/09/brian-fox-mirfield/ 	
UK Case #29	Summary	The offender was found to be conducting the sexual abuse of children for payment. The offender was found to be using a website that provided adult escort and webcam services and conducted the abuse on the site. The offender was also found to be advertising the sale of videos of child sexual abuse. The offender is from Huddersfield but was living in Northern Cyprus at the time.
	Offender characteristics	Female, 30
	Year of offence	Unknown
	Year of sentencing	2019
	Payment (method/total)	Was paid £750 by one offender
	Communication platform	Unknown
	Court	Isleworth Crown Court
	Laws	Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.72
	Charges/convictions	Guilty of 9 offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 count of sexual activity with a child under 13. 3 counts of distributing an indecent photograph/ pseudo-photograph of a child. 1 count of publishing an obscene article. 1 count of publishing an advert offering the sale of child sexual abuse videos. 1 count of conspiracy to sexually assault a boy under 13 by touching. 1 count of causing a child to engage in sexual activity. 1 count of sexually assaulting a girl under 13 by touching.
	Sentencing	12 years and 4 months in prison

	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-49499781 ITV News: https://www.itv.com/news/calendar/2019-08-28/woman-who-sexually-abused-children-online-has-been-jailed Yorkshire Live: https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/woman-who-called-herself-devil-16829203
UK Case #30	Summary	The offender was identified following the investigation of another offender (Offender A). Offender A's electronic devices contained screenshots of conversations with the offender over a two-year period, in which they discussed what she should do to abuse the child, and how much she would be paid. The device also contained a video of the offender abusing the young girl, with screenshots saved that showed at least ten different occasions in which a child was abused across three years.
	Offender characteristics	Female, 33
	Year of offence	Unknown
	Year of sentencing	2019
	Payment (method/total)	paid £2,285
	Communication platform	Skype
	Court	Isleworth Crown Court
	Laws	Unknown
	Charges/convictions	<p>Guilty of 4 offences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 count of distributing indecent live streamed videos (Cat A). 1 count of distributing indecent live streamed videos (Cat B). 2 counts of causing or inciting a girl under 13 to engage in sexual activity.
	Sentencing	<p>6 years in prison</p> <p>Placed on the Sex Offenders Register Indefinitely</p> <p>Issued with a Sexual Harm Prevention Order</p>
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wired Gov: https://www.wired-gov.net/wg/news.nsf/articles/British+woman+jailed+for+livestreaming+child+sexual+abuse+for+almost+three+years+10122019102000?open The Mirror: https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/woman-given-2000-sexually-abuse-21044042 UK Database: https://uk-database.org/2019/11/12/christine-callaghan-bexhill-on-sea/







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