# Meeting minutes

## Independent Reference Group

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| Date and time of meeting | Thursday 28th March 2024. 2.00 – 3.30pm |
| Location | Room 1.04 and MS Teams |
| Attendees | Caroline Flora, Chief Censor, The Classification Office  Ramona Tiatia, IT Research and Development Manager, WellStop Southern  Synteche Collins, Acting Director, ECPAT NZ  Clare Dobson, Programme Manager, New Zealand Telecommunications Forum  Leela Ashford Corporate Relations Director, Spark  Sandy Brown, Chief Government Affairs Officer, The Network for Learning Ltd  Department officials:  Jared Mullen, Director Digital Safety  John Michael (JP), Deputy Director Operations  Tim Houston, Manager Digital Child Exploitation  Investigator Digital Child Exploitation  Heath Mraz, Senior Data Analyst  Sangeeth Pushewalage, Senior Data Analyst  Sophia Kalafatelis, Policy Analyst  Angus Lindsay, Senior Operational Policy Analyst (Digital Safety)  Secretary: Tanya Parker, Design Engagement and Innovation |
| Apologies | Warren Shera, Head of Security & Customer Delivery, One NZ  Joe Teo, Manager Digital Messaging and Systems Senior  Emma-Kate Greer – Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, 2degrees. Eleanor Parkes, Director, ECPAT NZ |
| Chair | Jared Mullen |

1. Action points from last meeting
   1. Previous actions from the October meeting were reviewed. The induction for 2degrees to join the IRG was completed, and the further two actions would be completed by the end of this March 2024 meeting.
   2. Ongoing Actions: recommendation to add the Terms of Reference for the IRG onto the DIA website.

**Action point:** Digital Safety to add current Terms of Reference onto the DIA website.

1. Reporting Update
   1. The Senior Data Analyst spoke to the last meetings action point of making the headers on the sections of the dashboard clearer. One that could be confusing is the ‘behaviour’ section as it’s not descriptive.
   2. There has been a 3% increase in time period shown on the dashboard, in comparison to the last update. It is a standard increase, and mobile phones are still the main device users are hitting the block page. During work hours, it is noted that users are still hitting the block page on desktop computers.

**Action point:** Send the members of the IRG the data options available.

* 1. A new slide shows an overlay of when the DCEFS block list is reviewed and how the page views correspond to the number of unique URLs on the list at any given time. This is going to be a new but ongoing slide to show the IRG. Members at the meeting found this slide useful and insightful. The slide also shows the holiday period and the drop in users accessing the Block Page.
  2. As of the date of the meeting there are 699 unique URLs on the Block List. The next review is due mid-April 2024.

1. Filter Performance
   1. There have been no issues or outages with the filter. The filter system has been extended successfully to Samoa and Tonga.
   2. Digital Safety have commissioned a security review of the filter to ensure it remains robust and secure.
2. List Discussion
   1. Jared Mullen and John Michael gave an update on the filter extension work in both Samoa and Tonga. Both countries have a fully operational extension to the DCEFS. The Senior Data Analyst has been conducting training for those within respective countries to understand their data coming from the filter block page.
   2. Upgrading the blocklist and the success of the extension to Samoa, Tonga could have the positive risk of other countries asking for assistance as it is an appealing tool to help combat CSAM. Digital Safety only monitor the performance and administer the block list of the DCEFS and any data from any other country remains their own.
3. Updating the DCEFS
   1. Digital Safety have been assessing ways to bolster the DCEFS list. The IRG discussed options available and A, B and C Categories. In addition, Digital Safety has consulted Legal Services within DIA, as well as Operational Policy, Policy and other partners on to understand any legal impediments relating to changing the list.
   2. To date, there has not been any consultation with the smaller ISPs on potential changes.

**Action Point:** TCF/ Spark to facilitate an ISP specific forum.

**Action Point:** Digital Safety to provide list of signatories of the DCEFS to TCF and can provide information/ material for this forum.

*Technical aspects:*

* 1. Once we have a list, the Systems team will be able to begin testing which will give an indication on the volume.
  2. Sites that are not over-blocked as the list is updated twice a day.

***Terms of Reference and Code of Practice:***

* 1. Both the Terms of Reference and the Code of Practice will be revisited to ensure it fits the relationship the IRG has for the DCEFS.

Feedback on proposed changes to both documents can be done offline. Both the Senior Operational Policy, Policy and Senior Investigators can work with the Classification Office on these proposed changes.

1. Parental Controls discussion
   1. There are different options for parental controls, or safety features available to the ISP customers. Spark do have content filtering and any change to the DCEFS will be in addition to any filtering that covers both broadband and mobile customers. Parents are also able to set up safe browsing on either basic or premium Net Shield, which covers broadband only. Some families may have a financial barrier to additional customer protection.

**Action Point:** Spark to confirm if McAfee is at the device or network level.

1. Self-help programme
   1. The IRG members discussed the ‘Protect Children Finland’ programme which Digital Safety are proposing to have a link added to the current landing page (block page). Some members of the IRG had viewed it before the meeting and found it complimentary to the support services currently available. IRG are in support of Protect Child Finland link being added until such a time that the MSD programme creates one with a New Zealand nexus.

### Summary of action points

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| Item | Action | Date raised | Owner | Due date |
|  | Digital Safety to add current Terms of Reference onto the DIA website. | 28 March 2024 | Tanya Parker | By next meeting |
|  | Send the members of the IRG the options available for the Senior Data Analyst/s to capture in Google Analytics. | 28 March 2024 | Tanya Parker/ Senior Data Analyst | Complete |
|  | TCF/ Spark to facilitate an ISP specific forum | 28 March 2024 | TCF/ Spark | When able. |
|  | Digital Safety to provide list of signatories of the DCEFS to TCF and can provide information/ material for this forum. | 28 March 2024 | Digital Safety | Complete |
|  | Spark to confirm if McAfee is at the device or network level. | 28 March 2024 | Spark | By next meeting |