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Dear Mr Knight

As the firm commissioned by the British Board of Film Classification to undertake research into children’s access to pornography online, we welcome your Committee’s interest in this matter.

We note that statistics from our research have been recently quoted by ministers and thought it would be helpful to the Committee to provide the relevant survey data in full, which we do with the agreement of the BBFC.

As you will see from the table below, it is accurate to report that only **7% of children who reported that they intentionally seek out pornography online had seen it through dedicated porn sites only**.

But this statistic should be considered alongside the equivalent fact that **only 4% of children who reported that they intentionally seek out pornography online had seen it through social media only**.

You will also see that **53% of children who reported that they intentionally seek out pornography online had seen it through another type of site only** (sites that were included in this ‘other’ category included video chat websites such as Omegle and Chat Roulette, Reddit, Flickr, YouTube, Tumblr, search engine image/video search, file sharing/downloading sites, or ‘other’ – it should be noted that some of these may be considered social media sites in other contexts, but for the purposes of this survey were not).

Overall, children who reported they had intentionally sought out pornography online reported having ever seen pornography on either social media or dedicated porn sites in similar proportions (**43% having ever seen porn on porn sites, 44% having ever seen porn on social media**).

It should also be noted that these numbers are based on a subsample who reported having intentionally sought out pornography online, which was only 22% of the total sample, resulting in a relatively low base size for these statistics (N=257).

Q39 And when you've seen it online before, where have you seen it? Total mentions.		Among children who had intentionally sought out pornography online	Among total sample
BASE:		257	1144
Porn site (porn site, cam site)	111	43%	10%
Porn site only	18	7%	2%
Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, SnapChat)	112	44%	10%
Social media only	10	4%	1%
Other site (video or image hosting site, forum, other)	222	86%	19%
Other site only	136	53%	12%

Age Verification Survey, June 2019. Revealing Reality, for BBFC.

We did not ask children in the survey about frequency of visits to either type of source. However, based on our qualitative work conducted alongside the quantitative surveys, many children told us they had first seen porn online through social media, personal messages, on someone else's phone, etc., but most children regularly accessing pornography were using dedicated porn sites.

We hope this clarification is helpful to the Committee as it considers this topic.

Yours sincerely,



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