

in the UK. NCMEC then disseminates the CT reports to the NCA via a secure connection. These are downloaded daily.

22. The NCA operates a Referrals Bureau to receive CT reports from NCMEC and referrals from others. Bureau officers undertake intelligence and development work to determine the nature of offending, the identity and/or location of the perpetrator, and any ongoing risk and threat to children. Results are graded and either disseminated to UK police forces through agreed national protocols or are dealt with by NCA operational teams; allocation and prioritisation is dependent on the immediacy and assessed severity of risk.

23. The world-wide level of reports of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) submitted to NCMEC predominantly by US based industry has increased exponentially, from around 110,000 reports in 2004 to over 18.4 million in 2018.

24. The number of UK industry reports, primarily from NCMEC, is summarised in the following table:

Year	UK related Industry Reports of CSAM
2009	1,591
2010	6,130
2011	8,622

2012	10,384
2013	11,477
2014	12,303
2015	27,232
2016	43,072
2017	82,109
2018	113,948 ³

Information Sharing with Industry

25. The NCA declassifies and sanitises law enforcement information to share with industry and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) partners to help them to develop an understanding of the threat posed, and to inform strategies to prevent and tackle the threat. The NCA shares this information in the form of Amber Alerts⁴. Since April 2018, the NCA has produced Alerts for industry and NGOs covering: an overview of the dark web, and of dark web CSAE communities; indicative information on online grooming, suggesting measures that online platforms could apply to their services to improve child safety; how child sex offenders are using surface and dark web technologies to communicate and offend, including indicative information on online offender behaviours and methodologies, and an overview of CSAE offender

³ This figure includes 46,1468 non-actionable referrals sifted out by NCMEC prior to dissemination to UK. In 2018, NCMEC deployed analytical capability focusing on UK referrals. This followed an NCA grant to NCMEC, the non-actionable content has been included to ensure the comparison is like with like in respect of previous years.

⁴ The information in NCA alerts is supplied under Section 7(4) of the Crime and Courts Act 2013. It is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It may be subject to exemptions under other UK legislation. Except where permitted by any accompanying handling instructions, this information must not be further disclosed without the NCA's prior consent, pursuant to schedule 7, Part 3, of the Crime and Courts Act 2013.