

Last updated 11/02/2019:

Operational Guidance for ILOs

Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE) continues to be one of the national law enforcement priorities in the United Kingdom.

CSAE threat:

- **Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE)** – on-line grooming or blackmailing to incite a child to engage in sexual activity online; the sharing and viewing of indecent images of children; the live streaming of abuse; and for own sexual gratification, causing a child under 16 to watch or look at images of sexual activity. Please note OCSE does not include other forms of harm to children online such as cyber bullying. This is not currently illegal activity and therefore is not within the NCA's remit.
- **Contact Child Sexual Abuse (CCSA)** – physical contact of a sexual nature (whether or not forced or coerced) with a child.
- **Transnational Child Sex Offenders (TCSO)** – individuals travelling across international borders or embedding themselves overseas to sexually exploit and abuse children.

CEOP wishes to highlight a number of important procedural points for ILOs when dealing with the CSAE threat in your host-country:

Tracker Team International (TTI) are your single point of contact for any operational CSAE investigations/issues. The TTI provides the International desks and ILOs with specialist advice and guidance on CSAE related crime including:

- Liaising with International desks regarding on-going CEOP cases;
- Lead, support or co-ordinate CSAE related investigations in your country;
- Conduct CEOP system checks on CSAE cases for ILOs and desks;
- Answering general CSAE operational queries from ILOs and providing advice on CSAE issues.

ILOs should:

Inform Tracker Team International of any British national arrested and/or convicted in their host country of a CSAE offence to ensure the proper ACRO (Criminal Records Office) channels are aware and management strategies are put in place in the UK. Ensure that all information and/or intelligence communicated is full, clear and accurate. The information provided by ILOs facilitates an assessment and subsequent decision by operational teams about whether the criteria

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threshold has been met for a tasked investigation by a NCA-CEOP operational team. Wherever possible, you should provide the following information in relation to offenders, preferably in a 3x5x2. If this is not possible due to time or technology constraints, then the correct handling codes are essential. The required information includes, at a minimum, the UK offender's:

- Full name
- DOB
- Alleged Offence
- Times and dates of alleged offence

From a safeguarding perspective, victim details should include:

- Full name
- Age
- Nationality
- Location of domicile
- With whom they reside
- If they have parental responsibility
- Reason they have come to your attention
- Any additional vulnerabilities identified (e.g. poor health, substance misuse, homelessness etc.)
- **Engage the host country to initiate their own investigations to achieve best evidence and safeguard victims and secure prosecutions against British nationals who commit CSAE offences in their host-country.** In most instances, this is the preferred option, as it is the best way of ensuring safeguarding of victims through local intervention, which is the priority in any CSAE investigation. However, consideration should also be given to the option of prosecuting under Section 72 Sexual Offences Act (2003), which allows UK individuals who offend overseas to be prosecuted in the UK. Where there are indications of a lack of capability or capacity or willingness to undertake a prosecution, or significant complications, such as human rights considerations, are developing in the case, a section 72 prosecution may be the optimal approach to take.

Cases falling into this category should be referred to the Tracker Team, who will liaise with NCA CSAE operational teams, to consider tasking as an operation. The operational team should then seek early advice from CPS on the feasibility of prosecuting under section 72, taking into account the circumstances of the case, and what may be achieved in the country concerned, with local law enforcement agencies. This is not limited to use of section 72, and may also include opportunities to provide support to a local prosecution through specialist advice or capacity building activity.

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- **Establish specific CSAE Partnerships with host-country law enforcement agencies and wider foreign law enforcement community.** For example, is there a dedicated CSAE SPOC?
- **Establish, maintain and develop strategic and tactical relationships with valuable non-law enforcement Partners within the host-country.** For example, charity/NGOs, children's services and relevant government departments and communicate these relationships to CEOP Command.
- **When CSAE operations are being discussed with any Partner, ensure accurate records are kept of all contacts, meetings and correspondence.** The development and maintenance of precise audit trails and operational timelines streamlines the investigative and victim support processes.
- **Have a good working knowledge of the existing CSAE legislation and operational barriers within the host-country and the status of statutory children's services.** Communicate any details that you believe may impact on CEOP Command's ability to successfully pursue an investigation and/or safeguard child victims at the earliest opportunity.
- **Ensure that any cultural, logistical and practical issues that may affect CSAE investigations, in particular OSJA considerations, are all articulated within the Authorisation for Country Activity (ACA) form. If no ACA exists, ensure that relevant information is communicated to the International Desk and Tracker Team International.** Update ACAs as applicable in a timely manner to reflect any new CSAE legislation, MoU, extradition treaties, patterns and trends etc.
- **Comply with your obligations under Section 11 (England) and Section 28 (Wales) of the Children's Act 2004 and associated NCA policy (CE01).** All NCA officers have a duty to promote and safeguard the welfare of children they come into contact with as a direct or indirect consequence of carrying out their role. All officers should apply these principles wherever in the world they carry out their duties. Specific policy guidance in relation to international safeguarding is available in Section 4 of CE01 Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Contact Details

Operational queries

Irrelevant or Irrelevant

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For Out-of-Hours operational queries (17:00-07:00 UK) contact

or

Safeguarding queries

Out-of-Hours (17:00-07:00 UK) contact

or