

companies to do this, let alone follow the trail to the source, where this abuse needs to be stopped.

d. And end-to-end encryption will stop these automated systems in their tracks. These companies will then, with a digital-shrug, divest themselves of all responsibility for criminal content on their platforms.

15. What is required is a fundamental redesign of these platforms from the bottom up with child safety paramount. It is not acceptable to simply grow your company to gargantuan size and then apply piecemeal solutions to part of the problem on an *ad hoc* basis according as you are buffeted from one media scandal to another. Nor is it acceptable to hide the extent of the problem on your platform in a black box out of which you prick pinholes for others to see only hints of the full horror within.

Structure of submissions

16. The Chair asked a fundamental question of the Home Office witness, Christian Papaleontiou. The rest of these submissions are structured in answer to it.

17. You asked 'what drives this offending behaviour online and offline³²'?

Opportunity

18. The Inquiry was told for some offenders it was a sexual interest in children, for some it was pure sadism, for some it was power over the vulnerable³³.

19. There is a more fundamental answer: opportunity.

20. What the Home Office told the Inquiry, only described the motivation. Mr Papaleontiou is probably right. But those motivations - sex, sadism, power - are nothing new. What is new and growing is the opportunity to indulge those appetites. The internet provides that opportunity. Indulge those appetites and the appetites only increase.

³² Transcript, 22/5/19, page 86.

³³ Transcript, 22/5/19, pages 86-87