

level of transparency shown by the platform, as an example of how industry could approach and address such issues.

NCA Staff and Budget Dedicated to Tackling Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE)

5. In relation to the request for an updated figure regarding NCA-CEOP core-funded¹ staff and associated budget, from 256 staff and £14.61m in financial year 2017/18, in 2018/19 the NCA had 278 core-funded staff and £15.56m dedicated to tackling online CSAE. In 2018/19 the NCA also had an additional 43 non-core-funded staff and £2.42m dedicated to tackling the online CSAE threat, so a total of 321 posts and £17.97m. These figures do not represent the totality of resources and funding devoted by the NCA to tackling online CSAE, as they do not include essential functions such as buildings and infrastructure, human resources and occupational health and wellbeing services, technological support, specialist communications data acquisition etc. Those staff dedicated to tackling online CSAE are also able to draw on a wide range of teams whose work supports that which they undertake, such as the NCA's International Liaison Officer network, and those in technical and specialist roles tackling cross-cutting threats such as dark web offending. Where there is the requirement, the NCA will also surge officers from other teams to assist with CSAE operations.

¹ The NCA secures its funding directly through a Supply Estimate, voted by Parliament. The figures are in accordance with budget controls agreed with Home Office officials and HM Treasury and reflect NCA Board-approved budgetary targets. As a non-ministerial department, the NCA requires parliamentary approval of this funding. Core-funding covers the costs of the full range of NCA activities over the coming year, excluding income and funding received from other sources.

Reach of NCA-CEOP's Education Programme Thinkuknow

6. In relation to the request for an updated figure regarding the reach of Thinkuknow for financial year 2018/19, from an estimated 5.9 million children in 2016/2017: in July 2017 the NCA moved Thinkuknow to a new operating platform and no longer captures this information, and instead captures downloads of Thinkuknow resources. From 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2019, Thinkuknow resources were downloaded 81,529 times. Since July 2017, each individual download comprises a single zip file containing lesson plans, guidance notes and a range of supporting content to enable professionals to educate children, such as presentations, story books and activity sheets.

Number of Images Currently in the NCMEC Database

7. The US National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) has advised the NCA that as at 9 August 2019 it had 47.2 million unique images and 14.6 million unique videos in its database. These numbers include both indecent images of children, and those related to the offence but not containing sexual abuse, such as those taken of a child just before the abuse occurred.

Online Harms White Paper

8. At the IICSA Internet investigation public hearing on 20 May 2019, I stated that the NCA welcomes the Online Harms White Paper, and that I would share the NCA's response to the resulting public consultation once complete. I produce the NCA's response to the consultation dated 1 July 2019 at Exhibit RJp.