

To the enquiry into age verification for access to online pornography;

Please bring in age verification requirements for access to online pornography. This has, in the last decade or so, become a huge problem for our young people. Children use ipads and computers at home and at school these days on a regular, if not daily, basis. It is unfortunately very easy for children to inadvertently be exposed to pornography and images and vision which is not appropriate for their age. In fact, it is known that some businesses promoting porn have targeted commonly misspelled words of children and linked them to pornography sites. Teenage boys are then becoming addicted to this content. This is their sex education and they then expect girls to act out what they have seen online. This can be attributed to the significant rise in anal injuries for girls – boys see anal sex online (with actors apparently enjoying it) and expect girls to comply. Girls think they are supposed to like this activity and are sustaining injuries as a result. This also feeds into the rise of domestic violence – when girls are viewed as objects in this pornography, often being humiliated, having physical violence acted upon them in these videos such as choking and sexual activity that they do not want, this contributes to men's lack of respect towards women, which at the furthest end of the spectrum causes an increase in DV. When men and boys see this toxic imagery and videos this directly impacts on how they view women and girls. There has also been a significant rise in erectile dysfunction for boys and men, who are no longer aroused by real life sexual encounters with women as their brains have been impacted so much by viewing pornography online. 44% children between 9 and 16 report that they have encountered sexual images online. We need to protect our children and young people from pornography. The last decade or so of children have been an unwitting test case for the impact of easy access to pornography and we can now see the damaging results. Please bring in the strictest controls possible.

Yours Sincerely,

