



Ref: WQ92745

Darren Millar MS (Clwyd West)
darren.miller@senedd.wales

24 May 2024

Dear Darren,

I am writing in response to your written question WQ92745 asking how is the Welsh Government responding to the National Crime Agency's warning of the rise in online sextortion?

As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting online safety, our Enhancing digital resilience in education [action plan](#) sets out actions we are progressing in collaboration with partners, including the NCA, to raise awareness of online harms and deliver [online safety education](#) to children and young people in Wales.

The NCA's recent alert warned of a deeply concerning increase in instances of financially motivated sexual extortion or 'sextortion', with a large proportion of cases involving teenagers, often male victims aged between 14 and 18. To ensure that schools and education settings in Wales are aware of this alarming trend, officials worked with the NCA to coordinate the publication and communication of an [alert in Wales](#) through [Hwb](#). This contains advice to support education practitioners in spotting the signs of this type of abuse, to deliver preventative education and support victims of sextortion.

We have shared the NCA alert with key strategic stakeholder groups, including local authorities and Regional Education Consortia. It is important that victims are encouraged to report incidents and access support to enable the removal of unwanted or harmful content from the internet. The supporting resources include a letter for parents and carers, which provides practical information, helplines and reporting services which are readily available to support all victims, including adults.

These crimes can often have a devastating impact on victims and their families. Through our collaboration with the NCA and building on the Internet Watch Foundation [sextortion](#) article

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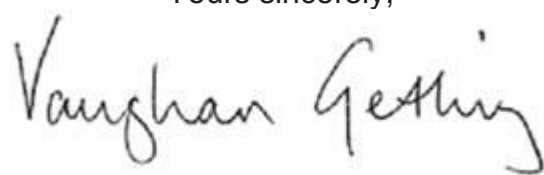
Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

published on Hwb last year, we are raising awareness of the dangers of sextortion to encourage vigilance and to support victims with an incident if they are targeted.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

VAUGHAN GETHING