Final Notes from meeting of the UKCCIS Executive Board
1 February 2012 - 09:00 to 11:00
Home Office, London SW1

Attendees:

Lynne Featherstone MP	PUSS Equalities and Criminal Information, Meeting Chair
Tim Loughton MP	PUSS Children and Families, Joint Chair
Ed Vaizey MP	Minister for Culture and the Creative Industries
Chris Woolard	Ofcom
Elizabeth Kanter	RIM Blackberry
Phil Raines	Scottish Assembly Government
Ian Walden	Queen Mary, University of London
Mike Short	O_2 / Telefonica Europe
Andy Barker	UKIE
John Carr	CHIS
John Grounds	NSPCC
Sonia Livingstone	LSE
Richard Allan	Facebook
Susie Hargreaves	IWF
Scott Dodds	Microsoft
Mike Galvin	BT
Joe Godwin	BBC
Rachel O'Connell	Independent consultant
Peter Davies	CEOP
Alan Reiss	DfE
Judith Grant	DfE

Apologies received from:

Mary MacLeod	Family Policy Advisor

Observers:

Louise Woodward	DfE
David Tate	DfE
John Ablett	DfE
Claudia Rodrigues	DfE
John Sexton	DCMS
Fiona Murray	DCMS

Item 1 - Welcome, introductions, new members and declaring interests

1. Ms Featherstone welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Scott Dodds , Microsoft who had replaced Matt Lambert on the Executive Board.

2. Ms Featherstone pointed out that this was Ian Walden's last meeting and that Mike Short had kindly agreed to report back to the Board on European-level discussions. Ms Featherstone thanked Dr Walden for all his work over the last two years and said that his contribution would be missed. She said she was pleased that he had indicated that he would be willing to contribute in the future.

3. Ms Featherstone also said that it was Andy Barker's last meeting and she thanked him for his work and looked forward to his future contributions on project groups.

4. John Carr declared a potential conflict of interest on the Age Verification item.

Item 2 - Feedback from Ofcom's roundtables on RIM filtering

5. Ms Featherstone thanked all involved for their work on this issue.

6. Chris Woolard updated the Board on the progress made and the timeline for solutions. He said that the IWF issue had been resolved within a matter of days. However, although a technical solution to provide effective filtering of adult content had been agreed it would take 3 to 6 months to deliver.

7. Mr Woolard indicated that interim measures had been agreed: MNOs and RIM would make sure new customers were informed of the current lack of filtering at point of sale and there would be a temporary swap of handsets for customers with serious concerns. Mr Woolard said that overt communication to customers was not at this stage thought to be necessary, and could encourage the type of behaviour that the filtering was trying prevent.

8. Ms Featherstone indicated that she was pleased with the interim suggestions but pointed out that six months was a long time, and if this were to be extended, then other options would need to be considered.

9. Mr Woolard said that they would be keeping the issue under review and if in two months there was no progress, he would be concerned and would want to take action. He pointed out that Ofcom had no formal powers: but they could get people around the table.

10. Elizabeth Kanter said that RIM Blackberry had a strong commitment to a solution and hoped their part of the resolution could take place within three months.

Item 3 - One stop approach advice

11. Mr Davies explained that the aim was to ensure that the best advice and information is given to children to make their online experience a safer one and that the new UKCCIS advice would provide a single, high quality set of information that can be accessible on, for example, Facebook, BBC and other services used by children.

12. The launch of the advice will take place at Ofcom on Monday 6 February and Mr Davies encouraged all to attend, celebrate the success and use the advice. Ms Featherstone echoed her support that all should use the advice.

13. Ms Featherstone said she was impressed at the positive way industry had come together, that the one stop approach was a wonderful story, and she was looking forward to the launch.

Item 4 - UKCCIS role and purpose findings

14. Mr Grounds summarised his report recommendations after which there were a number of views. Mr Vaizey pointed out that he wanted to see UKCCIS be more independent if it is a self-professed model of self-regulation. Mr Loughton commented that independence is a secondary issue, that he expected government would want to take a step back from UKCCIS at some point and that he supports the idea of a membership fee to give UKCCIS greater value and ability to fund projects. Mr Vaizey agreed with this point.

15. Mr Barker said he did not think that UKCCIS should be public facing. Lord Allan pointed out that UKCCIS is special and unique due to its government connections and that if it was member-funded it would become like a great many other organisations that industry is asked to fund. Mr Raines agreed that UKCCIS is not a public organisation and does not need a public face and that the heart of UKCCIS is the relationship between government and industry.

16. Mr Woolard drew a parallel with COBRA – which is understood by the public to have a specific role but it is not public-facing. He pointed out that if UKCCIS relies on member commitment it would require significant amounts of it to move forward. He also pointed out that the UK is seen as a model of self regulation but that the EU may leapfrog ahead on the back of this.

17. Mr Carr commented that he also did not think UKCCIS should be public facing. He felt the main value of UKCCIS was in the field of policy. Mr Davies echoed this point and added that UKCCIS was not a regulatory body;: it should focus on where it adds value.

18. Ms Kanter pointed out that there was an important relationship benefit: she had found UKCCIS to be a 'safe forum' when the recent Blackberry issue arose. Ms Hargreaves added that the Blackberry issue could have been combative had the relationships built through UKCCIS not existed.

19. Ms Hargreaves further commented that she would not want to push some organisations away from membership over the issue of fees. She felt that the UK did have a leadership role in relation to self regulation activity at EU level.

20. Dr Short pointed out that UKCCIS is barely four years old and that it must be mindful of the changing landscape with regard to EU progress on self regulation, the anticipated UK Digital Communications Act and the ICT curriculum review for schools announced recently by Michael Gove. UKCCIS may wish to revisit the Grounds report when progress in these areas is more advanced.

21. Mr Vaizey commented that we should look at the broader landscape of organisations in relation to UK internet safety in order to assess where UKCCIS sits.

22. Mr Grounds concluded by saying that if we want UKCCIS to increase its public profile that we all have a duty to use the UKCCIS brand as part of what we do, and by our repeated use it will gain in credibility.

23. Ms Featherstone said that UKCCIS's brand was a unique selling point and that Ministers would need to reflect on the discussions.

Action 1:
(i) Secretariat to draw up landscape diagram and present at the next Board meeting in March.
(ii) Ministers to present their reflections to the next Board meeting.

Item 5 - UKCCIS Summit 2012

24. Ms Featherstone thanked NSPCC for last year's good work in facilitating the event and asked John Grounds whether NSPCC would be willing to facilitate the summit this year. Mr Grounds said he would be very happy to facilitate the event.

25. Judith Grant explained that she had four questions on the summit. In reply the board agreed that there should be a steering group, that the summit would take place in the summer and that it would be in Central

London. It was agreed that the agenda should be shorter than last year and that there should be one ministerial speech.

26. Judith Grant asked Board members to complete the summit questionnaire and requested volunteers for the steering group.

> **Action 2: John Grounds to update on progress on the Summit at the next board meeting.**

Item 6 - Filtering issues

27. Mike Galvin briefly talked through his draft paper on the issues associated with filtering public wifi. He said that he had received an exceptional amount of feedback, and whilst the paper was in draft, it represented a significant consensus across industry

28. Mr Galvin said that information on public wifi was not widely available, that industry is not coordinated in this area, and does not know what is expected of it.

29. John Carr said it was an excellent piece of work, was an example of UKCCIS doing pioneering work, and volunteered to take part in a working group. Ms Featherstone emphasised that this was a draft report and that contributions were still welcome.

30. Dr Short endorsed Mr Carr's comments, but said that it should be clear that the paper covers only public wifi and not private or schools wifi.

31. Mr Galvin expected to release the final draft in one week.

> **Action 3: Mike Galvin to circulate his updated paper**

Item 7 - Report back on safeguarding actions taken on by industry

32. Sonia Livingstone updated the Board on her progress on the kind of data indicators that would be useful from a parent/child perspective. She explained that the public have a clear set of worries which might change: her aim was to focus on the problems. Prof Livingstone said that she had consulted with the Evidence Group, Ofcom and Facebook and explained that she had looked at areas of specific risk that children face online; and that industry should be required to report the incidence, approach, actions and evaluation of each area.

33. Peter Davies commented that there was a need for more transparency, that data needs to be pooled and analysed, and there must be a clearer idea of what the risks are so that the focus for action is the right one.

34. Phil Raines suggested that companies may be more prepared to supply data if it was presented anonymously. Chris Woolard agreed that anonymity would allow the data to be scrutinised more deeply and that the data would need to be 'bomb proof' to be used for naming and shaming individual companies.

35. Mike Short suggested that it will not be easy to get precise information given the volume of current activities; a lot of information was already being given to Ofcom in aggregated form; a pilot would need to be considered for new specific research questions, given the sensitivity of some of the subjects and diversity of UK providers. He also suggested that proportionality was important, and that mechanisms would need to be in place to make sure that a proportionate response was made to each specific problem area.

36. Richard Allan suggested that this work should be sold as a showcase for what industry is doing.

37. Ian Walden said that to use the data for naming and shaming could compromise the integrity of the data.

38. Prof Livingstone pointed out the parallel EU work in this area and mentioned the publication of the European Commission Strategy paper on child internet safety.

39. Ed Vaizey indicated that he would like to see this work moving forward as it was important to obtain relevant data as soon as possible.

40. Ms Featherstone said it was a good piece of work, that it was a positive step, and asked Prof Livingstone to report back at the next meeting. She also indicated that regulation would be required if industry failed to deliver.

Action 4: Sonia Livingstone to report back on progress at next Executive Board meeting

Item 8 - Update on age verification report

41. Ms Featherstone said she was grateful for the hard work that Rachel O'Connell and the group had put into a very difficult project.

42. Dr O'Connell summarised the report. She said that the group had been looking at a viable and scalable solution to age verification. The recommendations were that the work on age verification should continue through a two-year funded project group, with supporting technical groups, to explore the development of an age verification framework , to work with the Cabinet Office Identity Assurance

Programme, and to explore the potential of age attributes for minors for online payment channels

43. Dr O'Connell said there would be a final Age Verification Project Group meeting in February to discuss how to take the work forward and that she would report back to the Board. Ms Featherstone said that there is clearly a lot of existing work in this area that can be further explored and asked members for their initial views and whether there was likely to be funding available from UKCCIS.

44. Mr Woolard asked what we are trying to prevent and protect and how can we collectively develop solutions which are proportionate. He said that Ofcom were currently looking at the use of virtual currency.

45. Ms Featherstone explained that age verification was a particular concern highlighted in the Bailey review and one that industry must address.

46. Richard Allan said that the people most affected by age verification were not around the table and the challenge would be about how the work was taken forward.

47. Ian Walden said that this was mainstream issue and that privacy made age verification an important issue. Mike Short said he would like to know what BIS and DCMS are doing on e-commerce as UK is a world leader in this area and age verification needs to build on this. The Board agreed to accept the recommendations of the report.

Action 5: Dr O'Connell to hold a final AVPG meeting in February and to report back to the board in March.

Item 9 - AOB

48. Mike Galvin said that Intellect have suggested managing a national competition for the development of parental control applications and software. There are mixed views about the value of the competition. Mr Galvin said that the Intellect team would circulate proposals next week and that it was currently work in progress.

49. Peter Davies confirmed that Andy Barker had written to the relevant Internet Service Providers seeking their assistance in contacting those responsible for Little Gossip. He suggested that it would be a good idea to have a collaborative approach rather than just CEOP. John Carr explained that Little Gossip will feature on Panorama on 6 February. Judith Grant said this was a complex issue and that she had been in contact with FOSI and Board and Council members, and that a

UKCCIS spokesperson will be made available to respond to the Panorama programme.

Next meeting

50. The next meeting will be held on 17 April at the Department for Education, from 13:00 – 15:00.