

Ms Sarah Teather, MP
Minister of State for Children and Families
Department for Education
Castle View House
East Lane,
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 2GJ

Dear Ms Teather,

I am writing to you to express my concern at children and young people's growing levels of exposure to online adult pornography and to enquire as to how the Government plans to address this.

According to a recent article in Psychologies magazine, the average child gets their first taste of porn by 11, and between 60 and 90 per cent of under-16s have viewed hardcore online porn. Much of it is free, and computer-savvy kids can over-ride software blocks. This generation is the first to grow up seeing rape and sexual violence before even losing their virginity.

This is why I've decided to join Psychologies' Put Porn In Its Place campaign. We are worried about the effects on children of online porn and are talking to schools and Internet service providers to find ways we can manage this threat together, but we also need your help. Commissioning the Byron Review in 2008 was a step in the right direction. However, Prof Byron's recommendations, published in her Progress Review this year, are surely only the beginning.

I believe it is essential that your department does what it can to prioritise this issue and I look forward to hearing more about how the Government can help co-ordinate the efforts of parents, schools and business to significantly reduce the threat of online porn and in so doing give our children a healthier view of sex and relationships.

Yours sincerely,