



Department for  
Digital, Culture  
Media & Sport

**Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP**  
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Chi Onwurah MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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Dear Chi

I write in response to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 12 April which asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 26 March 2021 to Question 169852, on Sexual Offences, whether she has made an assessment of whether there has been an increase in sexually explicit email spam during the covid-19 outbreak.

The Minister for Crime and Policing answered "The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) monitors the number of reports made each month through their online reporting form, which includes those for spam containing adult content. They are currently undertaking analysis to identify the number of valid complaints which specifically relate to adult content, which the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will write to you to provide".

The ICO has now confirmed that there were 6,204 spam email complaints received from January 2020 to February 2021. Of those, 16 were related to "adult content" spam falling within the remit of the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR). The ICO does not collect data on reports of suspected scam and fraudulent email, but shares intelligence with Action Fraud and other agencies about suspected fraud.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

With best wishes,

**Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP**  
Minister of State for Media and Data