



13 DEC 2019

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 4 October 2019 to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry), requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Can you please tell me if Pornhub.com has been visited by staff at the Ministry between August 2018 and August 2019?*
- *Please provide the number of times staff have accessed, attempted to access or been blocked from accessing the site.*
- *Please include a breakdown of the number of times it was visited and the number of times an attempt was blocked by month.*
- *Please also include details of other sites staff have attempted to access that have been blocked including site names, dates and number of attempts.*

On 14 November 2019, following consultation with the Ministry, the last point of your request was refined to a 24-hour period. Furthermore, you agreed for us to categorise the blocked websites and provide details of each category, including a list of websites that were in the adult material category.

The Ministry's 7,000 staff are bound by the Public Service Code of Conduct issued by the State Services Commissioner, as well as the Ministry's own Code of Conduct, both of which require employees to be professional at all times. The Ministry's Code of Conduct requires employees to comply with all Ministry policies, including its Information Technology (IT) policy, Information Security Policy, the End User Policy and the Ministry's Internet Policy.

The Ministry allows staff to use the internet, including social media, for reasonable personal use. The Ministry defines 'reasonable' as not letting it interfere with work or productivity, and 'personal' as not part of the employee's job. Staff are responsible for limiting their personal internet usage to a reasonable amount, and managers are responsible for ensuring that this occurs.

The Ministry's Information Security Policy requires employees to keep personal use of Ministry technology (including emails and internet use) within reasonable limits, and to never use Ministry information or technology in a way that violates New Zealand law.

The Ministry's IT systems block a range of content including adult material such as references to nudity, sex, and adult content. The vast majority of sites blocked are automated ad sites, including pop-ups, infected sites and embedded advertisements, for example on news media websites. Additionally, a significant number of blocked attempts are from server attempts rather than user attempts.

If a Ministry staff member attempts to access a blocked website containing reference to this material, an alert is raised and is sent to the Ministry's IT Windows team email inbox. The staff member's manager may also be alerted to an attempt and would discuss this with the staff member as appropriate.

The Ministry keeps records of blocked attempts for a period of 75 days. As such, the Ministry is able to provide the number of attempts to access Pornhub.com through the Ministry's server for the period 28 July 2019 to 10 October 2019. There were zero attempts between 28 July 2019 to 31 July 2019; zero attempts in August 2019; six attempts in September 2019 and one attempt between 1 October 2019 to 10 October 2019.

Please note that the Ministry continues to share some IT systems with other agencies, such as Oranga Tamariki. As such, activities of these staff using the Ministry's IT system are also represented in the figures.

I am unable to provide you with the number of blocked attempts to access Pornhub.com prior to this period under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

In response to your request for a 24-hour overview of blocked adult/pornographic websites, and a categorised summary of other types of blocked websites, please see below a list of categories concerning adult material:

- Network bandwidth loss: websites with content with large amounts of data that is not necessary for work;
- Productivity loss: websites that are likely to distract staff for long periods;
- Business usage: websites known to contain malware, or download links (e.g. malicious files);
- Legal liability: websites that are considered legally or morally objectionable. (e.g. adult content);
- Security risk: websites that can be a risk to the Ministry's IT security. This includes websites that are infected with malware, websites that are falsely posing as other websites, or websites that could potentially be used to access other blocked websites.

The legal liability category can be further divided into sub-categories. This includes (but is not limited to) adult material sub-categories. There are three sub-categories concerning adult material:

- lingerie and swimsuit: websites containing images of models, with semi-nudity permitted;
- adult content: websites that display full or partial nudity in a sexual context (but not sexual activity), and websites supporting the purchase of related goods and services;
- sexual content: websites that depict or graphically describe sexual acts or activity; this includes websites that offer direct links to such websites.

Please find attached two tables showing a summary of activity on 10 October 2019:

- Table one shows the number of blocked attempts for each category.
- Table two displays a list of blocked websites in each adult material sub-category.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Ministry staff accessing blocked websites, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Crombie
Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate Solutions

Table one: Number of blocked attempts to visit prohibited websites on 10 October 2019 broken down by risk class category.

Risk Class Category	Attempted visits
Network Bandwidth Loss	750,621
Productivity Loss	50,304
Business Usage	27,402
Legal Liability	7,089
Security Risk	772
Total	836,188

Notes:

- The majority of blocked websites are advertisements. This includes advertisements on Google, YouTube, and advertisements on the side of news articles.
- A significant number of blocked attempts were from servers – not users.
- A single blocked website can go into multiple categories. For example, gambling can be included in the legal liability and productivity loss category. One blocked website, therefore, can be counted multiple times.
- Staff from a number of government agencies use devices that are connected to the Ministry's network. These figures, therefore, include the activities of staff from, for example, Oranga Tamariki.

Table two: Number of blocked attempts to visit adult material content on 10 October 2019, broken by adult material sub-categories

Adult Material Risk Categories	Attempted Visits
Lingerie and Swimsuit	
www.fashionforfun.co.nz	2
link.bendonlingerie.co.nz	2
smoke-389558.us-east-1.bonsaisearch.net	1
themarket.com	1
www.waisttrainer.co.nz	1
fit.intimo.com.au	1
Total	8
Adult Content	
tse3.explicit.bing.net	5
tse1.explicit.bing.net	3
tse2.explicit.bing.net	3
www.facebook.com	3
tse4.explicit.bing.net	2
funnyminnions.com	2
Expletive removed for publication	2
www.minotaur.com.au	1
tsunderrated.tumblr.com	1
Total	22
Sexual Content	
media-lln.ivideosmart.com	6
Old.reddit.com	3
www.reddit.com	3
memecrunch.com	3
88.85.82.189	2
promo-bc.com	1
kaedrin.com	1
Gateway.reddit.com	1
Total	20
Combined Total	50

Notes:

- A significant number of blocked attempts were from server attempts – not user attempts.
- Staff from a number of government agencies use devices that are connected to the Ministry’s network. These figures, therefore, include the activities of staff from, for example, Oranga Tamariki.
- Although these sub-categories fall under Legal Liability, Legal Liability contains a broad range of websites in addition to websites under these three sub-categories.