

Request for Correction to Official Record, Digital Safety (Children) debate, June 8, 2026

FAO Kanishka Narayan MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for AI and Online Safety, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

I am writing to request a correction to the official record under paragraph 1.3(c) of the Ministerial Code, which requires that any inadvertent error be corrected at the earliest opportunity. During the debate on Digital Safety (Children) on 8 June 2026¹, you stated:

"Currently, 91% of the images used in child sexual abuse interactions are self-generated."

This figure is significantly inaccurate. According to the Internet Watch Foundation's Annual Data and Insights Report 2025, of the IWF confirmed 512,980 images and videos examined that show child sexual abuse, 140,276 — 27% — were recorded as "self-generated".²

An error of more than threefold, in describing the scale and nature of the problem, is misleading. This matters more currently, because the statement was made in your Ministerial capacity and in the course of debate with the purpose to inform upcoming legislation and public policy on children's online safety. An overstatement of this magnitude risks misdirecting policy toward an inaccurate characterisation of how this material is produced, and it places an incorrect figure on the permanent record relied upon by Parliament, the press, and the public.

In fact, you went on further, linking this number to the weight it is given in government policy and suggest it may be foundational to making a change in law;

"that is the central focus for what this Government are doing. We have already made a significant difference, as I have said, in ensuring that our robust engagement delivered a pioneering change to a major operating system. If this change is not delivered within weeks, we will ensure that the full force of the law delivers such an outcome."

We are concerned that as a result of this mis-characterisation of the facts, Ministers are making a mistake in attributing the weight given to it among the complex aspects of the issues and potential solutions appropriate to the scale of the problem. Others may then be weighted less in comparison, as well as when balancing affected rights, and other considerations in making law.

We recognise that this error did not first originate in this debate, but was recently and repeatedly misstated by ex-Minister Jess Phillips, both in her resignation letter to the Prime Minister,³

"91% of online child sex abuse is self-generated by children ... The technology exists to stop children being able to take naked images of themselves. We could make this possible on every phone and device in the country,"

and in subsequent interview with Beth Rigby, Sky News,

*"91% of child sexual abuse material that was found by the Internet Watch Foundation and reported to police last year, 91%, so nearly all UK child sex abuse imagery, was self-made by children on their own phones."*⁴

That misrepresents the IWF 2025 data. Any amount is appalling but accuracy also matters. We would be grateful if you would correct the record through the Ministerial Corrections section of Hansard in the usual manner, substituting the 91% with the accurate figure of 27%.

We would welcome discussion or follow up questions.

¹ <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2026-06-08/debates/093ABAC5-F7CD-418C-8A44-4A1422152EFF/DigitalSafetyChildren>

² <https://www.iwf.org.uk/annual-data-insights-report-2025/hashing-insights/self-generated-imagery/> A 'self-generated' tag is applied and recorded for each individual image and video in which a child appears to be physically alone at the time the content was captured, regardless of how it was created, obtained, or shared. (IWF, 2025).

³ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cglpz89265jo>

⁴ <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DYg6P8fnwkq/> released May 15, 2026