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# Independent Reference Group

4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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# 1. Introductions

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# Introductions

**Jared Mullen** – Director Digital Safety



**Kathleen Logan** – Children's Commission

**Lisa Wilkin-Krug** - Manager Digital Messaging & System



**David Shanks** – Classification Office

**John Michael (JP)** – Deputy Director Digital Safety



**Geoff Thorn** – NZ Telecommunications Forum

**Tim Houston** – Manager Digital Child Exploitation



**Leela Gantman** – SPARK

**Josh Mitchell** – Operational Policy Analyst



**Mark Harris** – Technology Research & Consulting



**David Stone** – Telecommunications Specialist

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## 2. Overview of the implementation

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# The Digital Child Exploitation Filter

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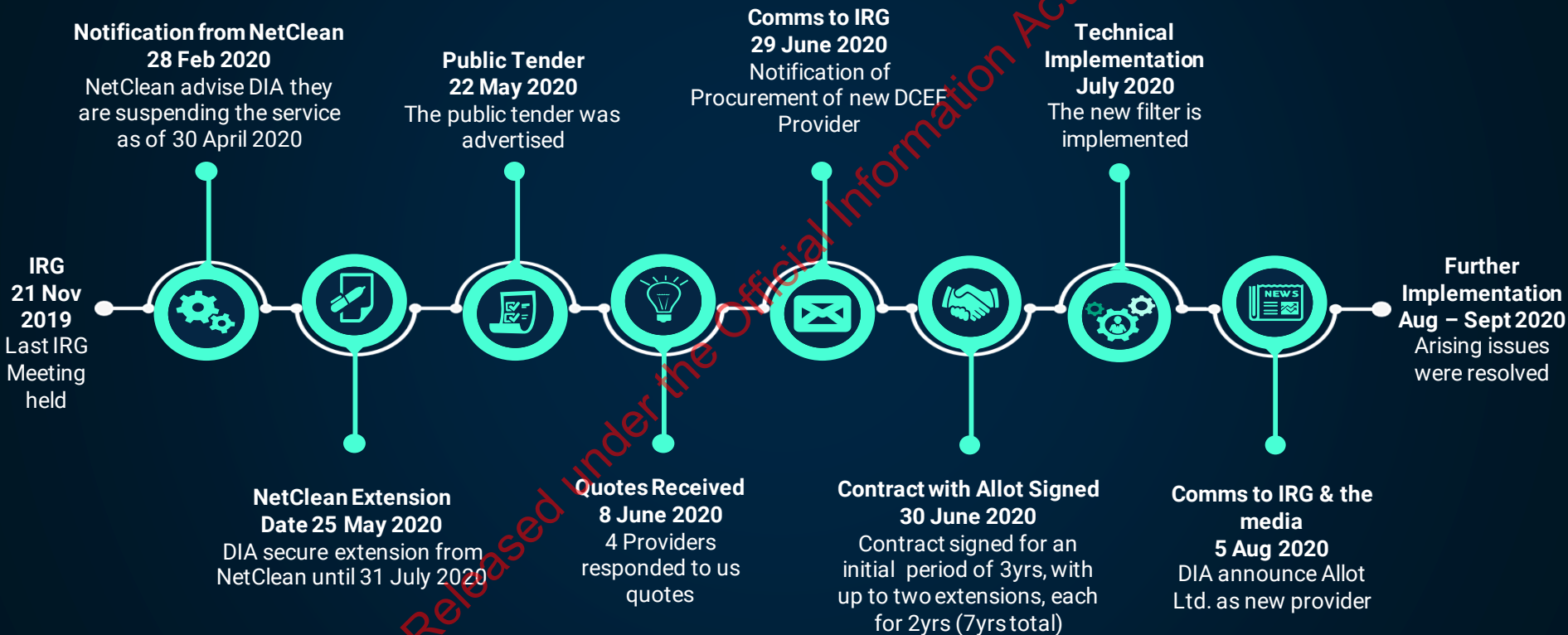


## About the filter

- The DCEF is made up of websites that are known to contain child exploitation material.
- These websites are identified through complaints and investigations by DIA
- Websites found to be hosting child sexual abuse material are placed on the filter block list once they are assessed.

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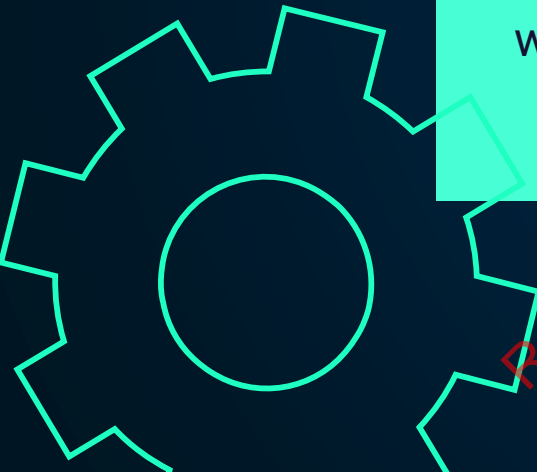

# Our Timeline





## Allot Ltd

Provide a range of services to international teleco's including filtering, security and traffic management. They have a positive international reputation with branches in locations such as NZ, Aus, India & across Europe



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# Why Allot Ltd.

Each supplier had to meet the following pre-conditions for their bid to be considered:

1. The system can be hosted in New Zealand
2. The system supports Border Gateway Protocol filtering
3. The system enables DIA to manage the block list.



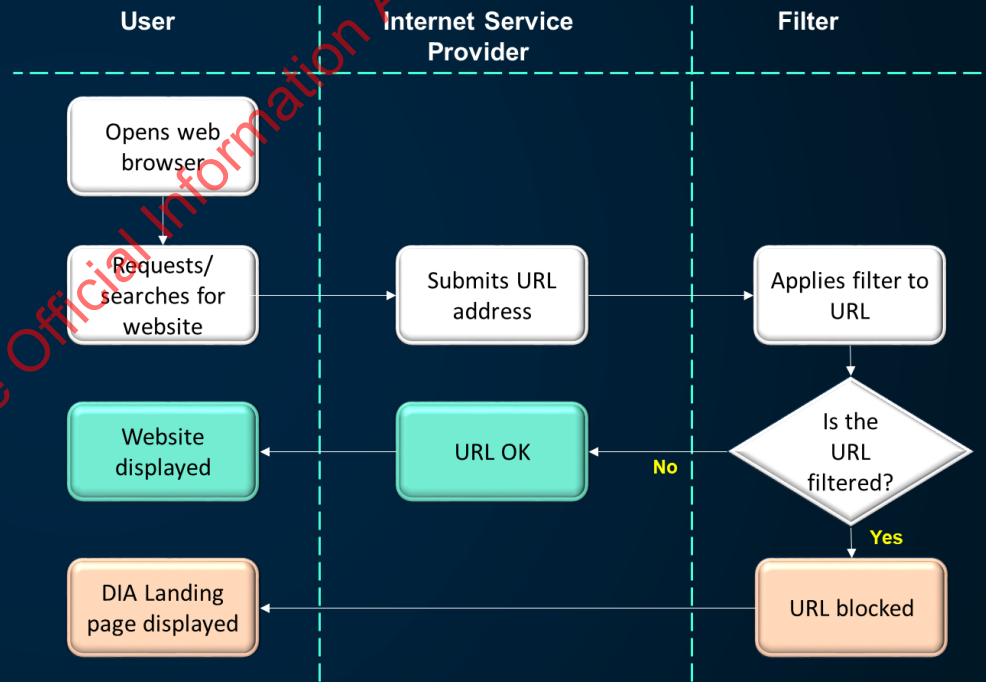
## Evaluation Criteria:

Price	Proposed Solution	Protect from Harm	Service Quality	Service Continuity	Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Undertook price sensitivity analysis</li><li>• Allot was ranked the best public value</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understood DIA's needs &amp; requirements</li><li>• Understood how the Border Gateway Protocol solution would work</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposal was thought out, well prepared and comprehensive</li><li>• Established and work with other Teleco's</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provided confidence that their solution was fit for purpose</li><li>• System was demonstrated as stable</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allot have the ability to manage volumes and scale up</li><li>• Global organisation with locations in multiple countries</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offer robust support including a NZ based account manager</li><li>• System is a 'turn key' out of the box solution</li></ul>

# Operation of the DCEF

## How the filter works:

- All internet traffic is passed by ISPs to the filter.
- The filter compares the URL address requested to the list of known child exploitation sites.
  - The requested site is not on the filter → user is passed to requested website.
  - If the requested site is on the filter list → the user is passed to the DIA landing page





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### **3. Review of filter governance**

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# Filter Governance



We now need to focus on reviewing the governance around the filter including:

- Code of Practice
- Frequency of IRG meetings
- Review IRG membership
- ISP/ DIA filter agreements
- Process to review URLs
- Review previous IRG meeting actions

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## 4. Review of filter reporting

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# Reporting

## Previous Reporting

## Proposed Reporting

For our report going forward, some of the improvements we'd like to make are:

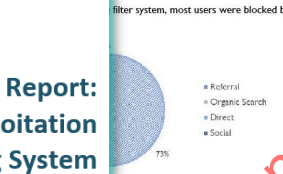
- Automating the reporting – it's quite manual at the moment
- Peak times of users trying to access sites
- Each month/period
  - Number of sites removed
  - Number of sites added

### Digital Child Exploitation Filter System Summary

1 March to 30 September 2019

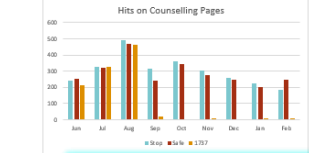


Since January 2018, there has been a gradual increase in users being diverted by the digital filter system. However, in the last seven months, there has been a decrease in the number of blocks.



March 2019

### Report: Digital Child Exploitation Filtering System



**Overview**  
This report provides information relating to filter activity between the months of June 2018 and February 2019. This is due to the meeting in October being cancelled for operational reasons.

The graph below shows the monthly fluctuations in activity with the number of unique hits ranging between 19,143 and 23,002.

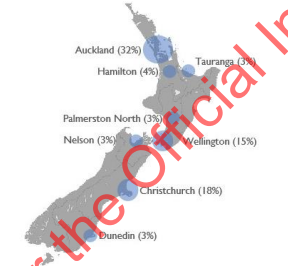


The figures within this time included school holiday period and the pattern of activity has previously been reported.

**Counselling Services**  
The first 3 months showed peaking in August with a 'services', however a substantial change in relation to accessing information related numbers was seen the following single figures in subsequent months.



The primary device associated with users was a desktop, followed by a mobile phone and tablet.



Nearly a third of users were from the Auckland region, with the next highest being from Christchurch and Wellington regions. Those classified as from 'other' regions across New Zealand equated to 19 percent. Data from international regions was not considered, as constituted less than 0.5 percent of users blocked by the filter.

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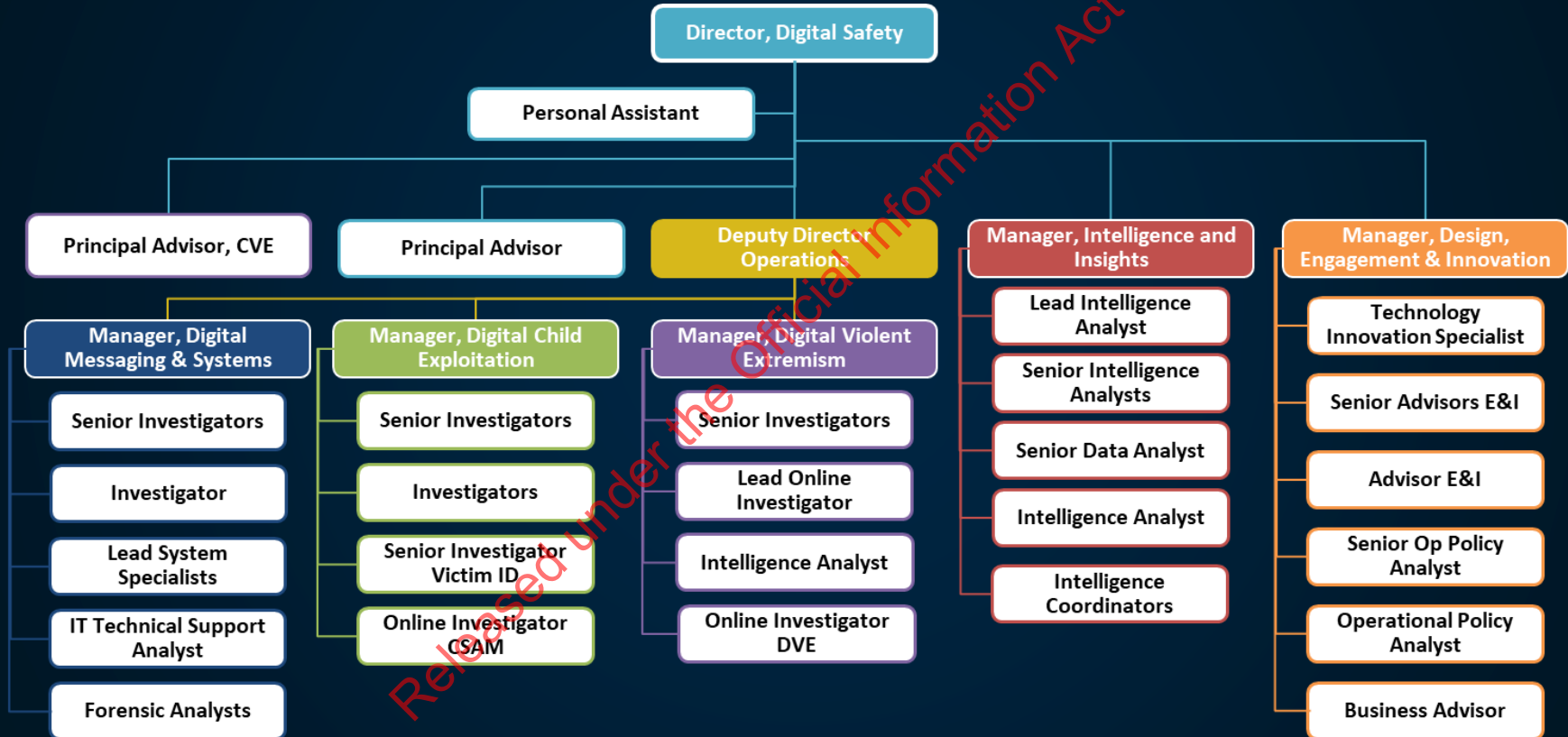
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## 5. Digital Safety structure

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# Structure of Digital Safety







# THANK YOU!

Does anyone have any questions?

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