

GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE No 6 Convent Place Gibraltar

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Government To Publish Child Pornography Legislation

The Government will this week publish the Crimes (Indecent photographs with children) Bill and the Crimes (Computer Hacking) Bill. This follows the announcement by the Minister for Justice Daniel Feetham during his budget speech that the Government would be fast tracking legislation dealing with child pornography and computer hacking despite the fact that the Crimes Bill will be published later this year when the Government has consulted the Bar Council and other relevant professionals.

Daniel Feetham said "as the community knows the Government has been working on a comprehensive criminal code which will modernise and codify into one piece of legislation virtually all our criminal offences. This has been an enormous task and has also involved detailed consultation with lawyers in the private sector and stakeholders within the public service such as the RGP, the Attorney General and the judiciary. As I have said on a number of occasions in the past it has always been our intention to fast track legislation dealing with child pornography in order to build upon the work we have already done in relation to the protection of children generally in the sphere of family law reform. This legislation deals with child pornography in a comprehensive way and takes into account the latest developments in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. The Crimes (Computer Hacking) Bill will also contain detailed provisions relating to "cybercrime". That Bill criminalises various forms of computer abuse, unauthorized access to computer data and other attacks against information systems. Once we are in a position to publish the Crimes Bill we will then consolidate these two pieces of legislation into the new Crimes Bill so that professionals only need to refer to one piece of legislation."