



**Claire Perry**

*MP for the Devizes Constituency*

**News release**

7 February 2012

## **Claire Perry welcomes Safer Internet Day and calls for Opt In Access to Internet Porn**

Today, countries around the world will mark the ninth Safer Internet Day which promotes safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile phones, especially amongst children.

Commenting, Claire said:

“I welcome Safer Internet Day as another opportunity to focus on protecting our children online. For more than a year I have been campaigning for a safer internet with a large group of MPs and Peers by calling on Internet Service Providers to make access to internet porn an “Opt-In” option. Our cross-party Parliamentary Enquiry heard compelling examples of the problem parents face in keeping their children safe online and with new evidence showing that only half of Britain’s parents use content filters on their home computers and almost 90 per cent of children reporting no parental controls installed on their mobile phones, it is clear that much more needs to be done. An Opt-In would preserve access to adult material for those who want it, but protect the families who don’t”.

### **Notes to Editors**

1. Safer Internet Day was created by the European Commission and is now celebrated in more than 70 countries worldwide.
2. On 23/11/10 Claire Perry held an Adjournment Debate calling for Internet Service Providers to work together to provide a default “clean” internet service, with an “Opt In” option to access pornography (Hansard source HC Adj, 23 Nov 2010 : Column 23).
3. Since then, a group of more than sixty cross-party MPs and Peers has been campaigning to make the internet a safer place for our children and has just concluded a Parliamentary Enquiry into online child safety with a final report due shortly.

4. Software controls that could help greatly reduce children's exposure to pornography are not installed by 46 per cent of British parents: Livingstone, S, *Risks and safety on the internet: the UK report*. LSE, 2011.
5. A recent poll conducted by YouGov for Carphone Warehouse found that 87% of children are aware they do not have parental restrictions on their mobile phones (*Carphone Warehouse Press Release*, January 30<sup>th</sup> 2012).

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