

# **PE2162/C: Prevent strangers from filming or photographing children in public play parks**

## **Petitioner written submission, 13 August 2025**

The Committee may be wondering why we are requesting more regulation on the photography of children without consent in play parks and other areas at this point in time.

With evolvement of time, technology, trends and social communication networks, new dangers now present themselves.

In other words, most people are now carrying a mobile phone which is capable of capturing video and still images. These images can be quickly distributed via social media networks for nefarious purposes including the sexual exploitation of children's images.

Some of these social media platforms have been brought to my attention, via the No1seems2care help site, in the past and I have actively tried to shut them down. The problem was that the images on them did not break the community standards of the platforms they were on as they were not considered sexually explicit.

These images include kids in play parks and other public areas and it was clear by the comments under the posts what purpose these images were serving.

It was sickening to read the comments and see a child's images being used for such a purpose. The owners and users of these types of pages can be based abroad or be using a VPN service to hide their identity, so it's difficult to police them from the UK especially if the images are being subtly used and don't break the community standards of the relevant platform provider.

This is an example of how images of children can end up being sexually exploited on a larger scale and why we request new regulations to reduce or prevent this from happening.

In terms of the impact on the public, think how parents must feel knowing that a stranger has captured images of their children, without consent, especially under suspicious circumstances. The parents are left wondering where these images will end up and what they might be used for. This understandably causes significant distress and alarm.

There are so many other parents out there who are left wondering what the images of their children are being used for as these types of incidents are on the increase.

We are asking the Committee to explore new avenues to prevent images of children being taken without consent in specific areas such as play parks. We are also asking the Committee to explore the possibility of new legislation being considered that would give Police Scotland the powers to secure the identities of adults who have taken the images of children in specific areas without consent and examine their devices in some cases where no reasonable explanation can be given and suspicion

of bad intentions is high. We would also request the Committee to consider the possibility, via local authorities, of signage being put in place at play parks requesting no videoing or photography of children within these areas.