# Three men convicted over online offences as courts enforce Sexual Offences Prevention Orders in Northern Ireland



A 68-year-old man from Larne, County Antrim, has been convicted of attempting to sexually communicate with a child after engaging in explicit online conversations with an individual he believed to be a 14-year-old girl. The man, Stephen Ford Hutchinson, sent sexually explicit messages, a photograph of his genitals, and a video of himself performing a sex act to the decoy. The decoy was part of a sting operation conducted by the group Child Online Protection Enforcers NI. Hutchinson's defence included claims of being a "digital soldier" combating child exploitation, but these were dismissed by the court. He has been placed on the sex offenders register, and sentencing is pending. ([sundayworld.com](https://www.sundayworld.com/crime/courts/pervert-pensioner-caught-in-paedo-sting-after-sending-sex-act-video-to-teen-girl/a268475658.html?utm_source=openai))

In a separate case, a 52-year-old man from Belfast, Ronald Alexander Hoy, avoided imprisonment after participating in online sexual chats with a decoy posing as a schoolgirl. Hoy sent inappropriate photographs of himself and requested similar images from the decoy. He pleaded guilty to attempted sexual communication with a child and was sentenced to three years probation, a five-year Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO), and placed on the sex offenders register for five years. The court noted that while immediate custody was justified, probation and the SOPO were deemed more appropriate to manage the risk posed by Hoy. ([itv.com](https://www.itv.com/news/utv/2023-10-03/man-caught-in-paedophile-hunter-sting-avoids-jail?utm_source=openai))

Additionally, a 76-year-old former missionary from County Antrim, David Harper, breached his Sexual Offences Prevention Order by downloading the 'X' app (formerly Twitter) without prior approval. Harper had previously been convicted of multiple sexual offences, including attempted sexual communication with a child and possession of indecent images. He received a three-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, for the breach. ([northernirelandworld.com](https://www.northernirelandworld.com/news/crime/former-missionary-76-breached-sexual-offences-prevention-order-by-downloading-x-app-4834429?utm_source=openai))

These cases highlight ongoing efforts to monitor and enforce Sexual Offences Prevention Orders in Northern Ireland, aiming to prevent reoffending among individuals convicted of sexual offences.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.sundayworld.com/crime/courts/pervert-pensioner-caught-in-paedo-sting-after-sending-sex-act-video-to-teen-girl/a268475658.html?utm_source=openai> - This article details the conviction of Stephen Ford Hutchinson, a 68-year-old man from Larne, County Antrim, for attempting to sexually communicate with a child after engaging in explicit online conversations with a decoy posing as a 14-year-old girl. Hutchinson sent sexually explicit messages, a photograph of his genitals, and a video of himself performing a sex act to the decoy. The decoy was part of a sting operation conducted by the group Child Online Protection Enforcers NI. Hutchinson's defense included claims of being a 'digital soldier' combating child exploitation, but these were dismissed by the court. He has been placed on the sex offenders register, and sentencing is pending.
2. <https://www.itv.com/news/utv/2023-10-03/man-caught-in-paedophile-hunter-sting-avoids-jail?utm_source=openai> - This article reports on the case of Ronald Alexander Hoy, a 52-year-old man from Belfast, who avoided imprisonment after participating in online sexual chats with a decoy posing as a schoolgirl. Hoy sent inappropriate photographs of himself and requested similar images from the decoy. He pleaded guilty to attempted sexual communication with a child and was sentenced to three years probation, a five-year Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO), and placed on the sex offenders register for five years. The court noted that while immediate custody was justified, probation and the SOPO were deemed more appropriate to manage the risk posed by Hoy.
3. <https://www.northernirelandworld.com/news/crime/former-missionary-76-breached-sexual-offences-prevention-order-by-downloading-x-app-4834429?utm_source=openai> - This article discusses the case of David Harper, a 76-year-old former missionary from County Antrim, who breached his Sexual Offences Prevention Order by downloading the 'X' app (formerly Twitter) without prior approval. Harper had previously been convicted of multiple sexual offences, including attempted sexual communication with a child and possession of indecent images. He received a three-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, for the breach.
4. <https://www.sundayworld.com/crime/courts/pervert-pensioner-caught-in-paedo-sting-after-sending-sex-act-video-to-teen-girl/a268475658.html> - This article provides additional details on the conviction of Stephen Ford Hutchinson, including his defense claims of being a 'digital soldier' combating child exploitation, which were dismissed by the court. It also mentions the sentencing, which is pending, and the conditions of the Sexual Offences Prevention Order imposed on Hutchinson.
5. <https://www.itv.com/news/utv/2023-10-03/man-caught-in-paedophile-hunter-sting-avoids-jail> - This article provides further information on Ronald Alexander Hoy's case, including the details of the sting operation conducted by a paedophile hunter group based in Sunderland, his guilty plea to attempted sexual communication with a child, and the court's decision to impose probation and a Sexual Offences Prevention Order instead of immediate custody.
6. <https://www.northernirelandworld.com/news/crime/former-missionary-76-breached-sexual-offences-prevention-order-by-downloading-x-app-4834429> - This article offers more context on David Harper's case, including his previous convictions for multiple sexual offences, the specifics of the breach of his Sexual Offences Prevention Order, and the court's decision to impose a suspended prison sentence for the breach.
7. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/courts/pensioner-who-previously-sent-explicit-images-to-14-year-old-girl-is-accused-of-breaching-court-order/a11277197.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data