Study scenario

Isla and Reuben met through a mutual friend on a night out at a bar in town. They began a relationship that evening that lasted two years. The relationship was sexual in nature and both Isla and Reuben consented to this. Isla ended the relationship because she decided that she didn’t see a future for her and Reuben.

Not long after the relationship has ceased, Reuben found out that Isla had started a relationship with another male. When Reuben asked the mutual friend about it, Reuben was told that Isla’s relationship with the new male had been ongoing during the time that Isla and Reuben were together.

During their time together, Reuben had taken semi-naked and naked photographs of Isla and videos of him and Isla whilst being sexually intimate. Reuben had taken these photographs and videos with his mobile phone camera with Isla’s knowledge and consent. After the break-up, Reuben contacted Isla and threatened to post sexual images of her online if she didn’t get back together with him. She refused and ignored any further calls from him.

A week or so later, Isla received a friend request through Facebook from someone with the same name as her. When she clicked to see the person’s profile she discovered that the profile contained 7 semi naked photos of herself and a video of her having sexual contact with Reuben. The settings on the profile were open which meant that anyone that searched on Google for her by name would be able to see the content. She later discovered that her family and friends (and other people that she didn’t know) had also been invited to be friends with the pseudo-profile and hence view the images on there. Many had accepted the friend request and hence the pictures and videos had been viewed hundreds of times.

Isla was mortified by the situation; she felt embarrassed, ashamed and humiliated. She contacted Facebook to ask for the images to be removed and notified the police as to what had happened. Facebook did remove the images but not before they had been downloaded and posted on other websites. Before Isla knew it, the images had been distributed so widely that containment was not possible.