

MySpace said yesterday it would release data on registered sex offenders it has identified and removed from the site.

Initially MySpace cited federal privacy laws and rebuffed demands last week from 8 attorney generals, including North Carolina's Roy Cooper, for data on how many registered sex offenders use the site and where they live. Some attorney generals filed subpoenas and took other legal actions to demand the data. MySpace said last week such efforts were required under the federal Electronic Communications Privacy Act before it could legally release the data. Statements from MySpace this week say they had always intended to release the information. 7,000 profiles of registered sex offenders have already been identified and removed. Approximately 180 million profiles are part of MySpace, a social networking website owned by News Corp.