# UK launches expert groups to tackle AI and copyright tensions



The UK is taking steps to address the growing legal challenges at the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and copyright, with new expert working groups formed to find practical solutions. These groups bring together figures from the creative industries and tech sector to develop approaches that support innovation while safeguarding creators’ rights.

Part of the government’s Plan for Change and Modern Industrial Strategy, the initiative acknowledges the importance of both sectors to UK economic growth. Participants include the News Media Association, the Alliance for IP, Sony Music Entertainment, the Publishers Association, The Guardian, and technology firms such as OpenAI, Amazon and Meta. Their early meetings in London have focused on transparency, licensing and the wider impact of AI on creative work.

The working groups follow a major consultation launched in December, which drew over 11,500 responses. The consultation explored how copyright law can evolve to meet the twin aims of encouraging AI development and ensuring creators retain control over their work. Key topics included transparency in AI training data, improved licensing systems and technical standards to guide responsible use.

Science Secretary Peter Kyle said the government is committed to delivering legal clarity that benefits both creatives and AI developers. He described the working groups as a “fresh start” for constructive collaboration. Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy echoed this message at the Media & Telecoms 2025 and Beyond Conference, pledging to support human creativity through enforceable legislation built on trust and balance.

A central focus is improving how creators control the use of their work in AI systems. Proposals include greater transparency around how AI developers use copyrighted material and new licensing frameworks that offer clearer permissions and restrictions. One option under review is a “rights reservation” mechanism, allowing creators to opt out of AI training use—a move designed to respect individual choices without stifling innovation. The government is also exploring a new 'right to personality' aimed at protecting individuals from unauthorised use of their voice, image or likeness in AI-generated content. This measure reflects growing concerns over misuse of identity and artistic integrity in the digital era.

The initiative seeks to balance economic opportunity with cultural protection. By fostering structured dialogue between creatives and developers, the UK hopes to lead in ethical AI development while ensuring its creative industries continue to thrive. The strategy represents a collaborative path forward—one that aims to secure long-term benefits for both sectors and the wider public.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.innovationnewsnetwork.com/uk-set-to-deliver-solutions-to-ai-and-copyright-issues/59887/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=uk-set-to-deliver-solutions-to-ai-and-copyright-issues> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/creative-and-ai-sectors-kick-off-next-steps-in-finding-solutions-to-ai-and-copyright> - The UK government has initiated expert working groups comprising representatives from both the creative industries and the AI sector to address AI and copyright challenges. These groups aim to develop practical solutions that support innovation while protecting creators. The formation follows a consultation launched in December 2024, which received 11,500 responses, highlighting the importance of collaboration between sectors to foster growth and ensure public benefit. The groups will focus on transparency, licensing, and technical standards to navigate the evolving landscape of AI and copyright.
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/copyright-and-artificial-intelligence> - The UK government has launched a consultation to explore how the legal framework for copyright can support both the creative industries and the AI sector. The consultation seeks views on proposals to boost trust and transparency between sectors, enhance creators' control over their works, and ensure AI developers have access to high-quality material for training models. The initiative aims to balance the needs of both sectors, fostering innovation while protecting creators' rights in the digital age.
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-consults-on-proposals-to-give-creative-industries-and-ai-developers-clarity-over-copyright-laws> - The UK government has opened a consultation to provide clarity over how copyright laws apply to the use of creative works in training AI models. The proposals aim to enhance creators' control over their material, support AI developers with access to high-quality data, and ensure transparency in the use of content. This initiative seeks to balance the interests of both sectors, fostering growth and innovation while protecting creators' rights in the evolving digital landscape.
5. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/lisa-nandy-speech-at-media-telecoms-2025-and-beyond-conference> - Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy addressed the Media & Telecoms 2025 and Beyond Conference, emphasising the government's commitment to finding a balanced approach to AI and copyright issues. She highlighted the importance of collaboration between the creative industries and tech sectors to develop enforceable legislation that protects creators' rights while supporting technological innovation. Nandy announced plans for a series of roundtables with industry representatives to develop legislation that works for all stakeholders.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/7366eef2-8ae4-4d8f-8c4e-9adbd641c183> - UK Technology Secretary Peter Kyle has urged critics of the proposed AI copyright regime to embrace change. The proposal would require companies, artists, or authors to opt out if they don't want their work used by AI systems. Kyle emphasised the government's commitment to societal and economic progress, aiming to balance the interests of creative industries and tech companies. The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology is reviewing over 11,000 responses to its consultation on AI and copyright and plans to implement new legislation.
7. <https://www.ft.com/content/d4c291e5-71fb-426d-ac29-d586eec768f7> - The UK government is proposing a new 'right to personality' to protect artists and celebrities from AI companies creating products that mimic their distinctive features. Ministers will consult on updating copyright rules to regulate how AI technologies use artists' content for training models. This consultation will introduce new protections for creators, aiming to block AI products that closely resemble famous voices, images, or other features. A key part of the consultation is establishing a rights reservation mechanism, balancing content licensing opportunities with protection for creators who do not want their material used.