



Consideration of exceptions to copyright in the AI era – UK

IFRRO Legal Issues Forum
October 2025
Singapore

Serena Dederding
General Counsel and Company Secretary

Copy, Right



Recap

- Long-running AI and Copyright debate in the UK.
- In 2023 the Conservative government withdrew plans to make copyright law more favourable to AI developers by introducing a broad TDM exception.
- A subsequent attempt to find agreement between the technology and creative sectors on a voluntary AI and copyright code of practice ultimately failed.
- The new Labour government insisted that it was possible to balance the interests of AI developers and the creative industries and opened a consultation and on Copyright and AI in December 2024 to explore legislative reform – four proposals put forward.

Copyright and AI Consultation and DUAB

- At the time, the Government expressed a preference for a TDM exception with a 'rights reservation' to facilitate AI training, underpinned by 'transparency obligations' for developers (but no specific detail/proposals provided).
- Consultation coincided with parliamentary scrutiny of the Data (Use and Access) Bill (DUAB).
- The House of Lord repeatedly tabled amendments to DUAB aimed at enhancing copyright protections, such as **requirement for AI developers to reveal copyright works used in their models.**
- Ultimately the amendments were not included. DUAB received Royal Assent in the Summer of 2025.

Copyright and AI Debate

- However, DUAB did compel the Government to take action to progress and inform the debate on AI and copyright reform in the UK, including the preparation of an Economic Impact Assessment report.
- Further, **two industry working groups** are to be established, one to explore transparency in relation to AI training, the other technical solutions that enable rights holders to control when their works are used.
- Outcomes of working groups and responses from the consultation will inform reports and the Government's proposals.

Copyright and AI Debate

- **New UK AI-copyright legislation on the horizon?** Government has stated that the copyright and the AI consultation process, the working groups and preparation of reports must happen before any firm decisions are taken on AI-related copyright reform.
- The Government has also stated that no new reform will be brought until there is a 'practical and effective plan that meets our objectives of enhancing rightsholder control'.
- Other factors could also influence e.g. current legal action, more direct licensing and development of collective licensing solutions, geopolitical developments etc.
- UK Government response to the copyright consultation - Imminent publication?

CLA's GAI Training Licence Solution

- CLA continues to advocate that legislative reform is not the solution. It is imperative to preserve the UK's 'gold-standard' copyright framework to protect creator and rightsholder control and the sustainability of the UK's creative industries.
- In April, CLA announced plans to launch a **Generative AI Training Licence** for new training, fine-tuning and RAG. An **opt-in, non-exclusive and scalable voluntary collective licensing solution** that ensures **remuneration** for participating creators and rightsholders.
- This licence will complement direct licensing and demonstrates to UK policy makers that obtaining permission at scale is achievable, and a change to the UK's copyright framework to introduce a **broad TDM exception with rights reservation is neither desired or required.**



Copy, Right

