# WalesOnline and leading newspapers oppose UK copyright law changes



In a concerted effort to highlight a significant legislative development, WalesOnline, along with the four largest daily newspapers in Wales, is advocating against proposed changes to copyright laws by the UK Government. These revisions could have far-reaching implications not only for news organisations like WalesOnline but also for the broader UK creative sector.

The proposed changes would permit artificial intelligence (AI) companies to utilise text, images, music, and various other forms of online content without compensating the original creators. This shift could enable international AI corporations to tap into the immense value generated by artists, musicians, historians, scientists, and local journalists without paying for their contributions.

The creative industry in the UK is estimated to be worth approximately £126 billion and employs around 2.4 million people. Stakeholders from this sector have come together to express their concerns, warning that these changes could prove catastrophic for the industry as a whole.

Local news organisations are already grappling with challenges posed by the BBC's expanding digital presence and the market dominance of tech giants like Meta and Google. Experts warn that granting free access to AI companies would further jeopardise the viability of these outlets, hindering their capacity to engage in thorough investigative journalism, unveil exploitation, and amplify the voices of marginalised communities.

WalesOnline has noted the pivotal role that journalism plays in the region. The outlet has previously uncovered serious issues, including exploitation within the door-to-door charity fundraising industry through undercover reporting, and has brought attention to scandals across various levels of the Welsh Government and institutions such as S4C and political entities like Plaid Cymru.

The editorial team at WalesOnline highlights the essential function that journalism serves in a democratic society, stating that journalists compel those in power to provide answers to pressing questions, while also giving voice to those who feel overlooked. This connection between journalists and the communities they serve is described as vital to the cultural landscape of Wales.

In light of these developments, WalesOnline stands alongside the UK's creative industries in calling for fair compensation for content creators and urges the government to take steps to safeguard this key sector of the economy. The publication emphasizes the potential consequences of undermining journalistic integrity and the wider creative landscape, asserting that Wales would experience a decline without strong journalism.

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

## References

* <http://www.epuk.org/news/ai-potential-changes-to-copyright-law-a-primer> - This URL supports the claim that the UK government is proposing changes to copyright law to accommodate AI, including an exception for AI training that could allow companies to use copyrighted material without permission. It highlights the potential impact on photographers and the creative industry.
* <https://www.globalpolicywatch.com/2025/01/uk-government-proposes-copyright-ai-reform/> - This URL corroborates the government's consultation on copyright and AI, aiming to balance the interests of AI developers and rights holders. It outlines proposals for a new text and data mining exception and transparency requirements.
* <https://www.osborneclarke.com/insights/Regulatory-Outlook-january-2025-Artificial-intelligence> - This URL discusses the UK government's focus on AI safety and regulatory reforms, including an opt-out text and data mining exception. It highlights the importance of data for AI development and the need for transparency from AI developers.
* <https://www.dentons.com/en/insights/articles/2025/january/2/the-uks-new-ai-copyright-consultation-a-path-to-clarity-or-controversy> - This URL explains the UK's consultation on reforming copyright law to address AI-related issues, including a proposed text and data mining exception with an opt-out mechanism for rights holders. It discusses the balance between innovation and copyright protection.
* <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/copyright-and-artificial-intelligence-impact-on-creative-industries/> - This URL provides context on the government's consultation regarding AI and copyright, focusing on the impact on creative industries. It discusses the need for clarity in how copyright applies to AI training and the proposed text and data mining exception.