# Martin Kemp's flight encounter with Keir Starmer raises eyebrows over copyright remarks



Martin Kemp, well-known as a member of the band Spandau Ballet and a prominent figure in the entertainment industry, recently shared an anecdote that might have significant implications for his public image and potential accolades, including an MBE. The 63-year-old entertainer recounted an encounter on a flight with Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer that unfolded awkwardly after Kemp voiced criticisms concerning government policy on copyright, particularly in relation to artificial intelligence (AI) development.

Speaking on his podcast, "FFS! My dad is Martin Kemp," alongside his son Roman Kemp, the musician reflected on his outspoken remarks during the flight. He articulated concerns regarding the government's plans to permit tech companies to utilise copyrighted material without compensation to train AI systems, describing it as a scenario in which "they want to make it free to sample everything." He expressed, "You know what? This week, I think I saved the music business and I saved the film business."

The incident took place recently, with Kemp having been unaware that Starmer was seated in front of him as he passionately critiqued the government’s strategy. According to him, as the plane landed, he realised the Prime Minister had overheard his criticisms, detailing: "I'm on the aeroplane and I'm slagging it off… and I was looking around, the plane lands, and who's sitting in front of me? Keir Starmer!"

Despite the opportunity to engage directly with the Prime Minister about these pressing issues, Kemp described feeling snubbed after Starmer avoided eye contact and did not acknowledge him. "He didn't even look at me," he stated, highlighting the awkwardness of the moment.

Three days post-incident, Kemp came across a report suggesting that the government was reconsidering its strict stance on AI policies, leading him to believe that his remarks might have had an influence. "But then, three days later, I opened a magazine and read… the government are chilling out a little bit on the AI thing. And I think, 'I done it, I saved it, that was me'," he remarked.

Kemp also voiced a realisation that his impassioned critique might have affected his chances for recognition such as an MBE. He noted, "When I was shouting [about] the Government and Keir Starmer, I thought - that's my MBE gone."

The intersection of music, copyright, and AI is a topic of increasing scrutiny as governments assess the implications of technology on creative industries. Several sectors are requesting stronger protections for artistic work, particularly in light of how AI-generated content is addressed within existing copyright frameworks.

The situation encapsulates the ongoing dialogue surrounding intellectual property rights and the need for safeguarding creators in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

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

## References

* <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-ai-strategy> - This URL provides information on the UK government's AI strategy, which includes considerations for copyright and AI development, aligning with Martin Kemp's concerns about government policies.
* <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/dcms-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/inquiry4/> - This link to the UK Parliament's Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee inquiries could include discussions on copyright and AI, reflecting the broader context of Kemp's criticisms.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-> - BBC News often covers stories related to entertainment figures like Martin Kemp and could provide context on his public image and potential accolades.
* <https://www.gov.uk/honours/overview> - This government webpage explains the process and criteria for receiving honors like an MBE, which Kemp mentioned might be affected by his actions.
* <https://www.inta.org/INTABulletin/Pages/ArtificialIntelligenceandCopyright.aspx> - The International Trademark Association (INTA) discusses intellectual property issues, including AI and copyright, which are central to Kemp's concerns.
* <https://www.wipo.int/about-ip/en/> - The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) provides insights into global intellectual property rights, which are relevant to the intersection of music, copyright, and AI technology.