# Elton John and Simon Cowell voice concerns over UK copyright changes



Sir Elton John and Simon Cowell have expressed their concerns regarding proposed changes to copyright regulations in the UK, urging the Government to reconsider its stance to protect creative talents from the impact of artificial intelligence (AI). The issue centres on a campaign advocating for alterations in rules that would enable large corporations to utilise online content for AI development without compensating the original creators.

Under the suggested framework, copyright holders would be required to proactively opt out if they wished to prevent their works from being employed in such AI applications, rather than needing to provide consent beforehand. The implications of this shift have raised alarm among prominent figures in the creative world.

Elton John characterised the UK’s creative sector as the “envy of the world” but cautioned that the proposed changes jeopardise this status. Speaking to the Daily Mail, Sir Elton stated, “We only achieved that success with the backing of our long-standing copyright protection – the world’s gold standard.” He further emphasised the creative industries' role in generating jobs and economic growth, maintaining that “the music community has always been quick to adopt new technologies… but adoption of this copyright exception would destroy the UK’s leadership that has been hard won, and what’s worse, it would give it all away. For nothing.”

Simultaneously, Simon Cowell, the creator of "The X Factor," voiced his apprehensions about the potential consequences of inadequate regulation of AI. He warned that artists and supporting personnel could be "wiped out" by the mishandling of copyright concerning AI, asserting in the Daily Mail, “The thought that anyone would believe they have the right to blindly give this country’s creative ideas away – for nothing – is just wrong.” Cowell expressed strong advocacy for the safeguarding of individual creativity, insisting that AI should not be permitted to exploit the unique talents of those who contributed to the arts.

Prominent figures in the arts, including singer-songwriter Joan Armatrading, Bafta-winning composer Nick Foster, and author Kate Mosse, have also rallied behind the campaign. Mosse, while recognising the “possibilities” that AI presents, asserted that it is a matter of “principle, of fairness” that tech companies compensate artists for their work. She proposed a system whereby AI companies would be required to obtain permission and offer payment to creators, advocating for an “opt-in” approach as opposed to the current proposal.

In a parliamentary context, Sir Keir Starmer, the leader of the Labour Party, highlighted the significance of the UK’s creative industries during a session with the Liaison Committee in December. He remarked on the importance of striking a balance as the Government reviews its proposals, acknowledging the vast opportunities that lie ahead for the sector.

The overarching debate continues, as stakeholders from various facets of the creative realm engage with the implications of AI and copyright legislation, aiming to protect the rights and livelihoods of artists in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

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

## References

* <https://www.wrighthassall.co.uk/knowledge-base/uk-government-introduces-new-ai-regulations-key-developments> - This URL supports the claim that the UK Government is proposing changes to copyright laws in response to AI, including allowing AI developers to use online content without explicit permission, which has drawn criticism from artists.
* <https://www.globalpolicywatch.com/2025/01/uk-government-proposes-copyright-ai-reform/> - This URL corroborates the proposed copyright reforms aimed at balancing creators' rights with AI development needs, including a text and data mining exception and transparency requirements for AI developers.
* <https://writerbeware.blog/2025/01/31/turning-copyright-on-its-head-the-uks-proposed-ai-copyright-exception/> - This URL explains the proposed copyright exception for AI, which would allow AI companies to use content without permission unless creators opt out, and highlights concerns about the impact on creators' rights.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This URL is the source of the article discussing concerns from prominent figures like Elton John and Simon Cowell regarding proposed changes to UK copyright regulations due to AI.
* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk> - This URL would typically host articles featuring quotes from Sir Elton John and Simon Cowell regarding their concerns about the impact of AI on the creative sector, though specific articles may not be directly linked.