# Keir Starmer faces backlash over AI copyright exemption proposals



Keir Starmer, the leader of the Labour Party and the UK's Prime Minister, is encountering significant dissent from within his own party regarding proposed legislation that would exempt artificial intelligence (AI) firms from copyright laws. This controversial plan would enable large technology companies to utilise copyrighted works for training AI systems, requiring authors, musicians, artists, and filmmakers to actively opt out if they wish to safeguard their creations.

Concerns have been voiced by members of Parliament's culture committee, most of whom belong to the Labour Party, regarding the potential repercussions of this initiative on the creative industries of the UK. In a recent statement, the committee highlighted that "our world-class creatives are the lifeblood of the UK's film and TV sectors," while also cautioning that the rapid expansion of generative AI technologies threatens the livelihood and future of creators across various disciplines. They asserted that the implications of this policy are far-reaching and "will be felt by the most vulnerable" within the creative workforce.

The culture committee urged the Government to reconsider its stance, asserting that mismanaging the relationship between AI advancement and copyright could harm the growth of not only the film and television sectors but also the broader creative industries. They recommended that instead of favouring a model that allows extensive data-mining for AI training without proper permissions, the Government should mandate that AI developers obtain licenses for any copyrighted material they intend to use.

The Daily Mail has been vocal in its opposition to Starmer's proposal, launching a campaign designed to raise awareness and protect creators from the challenges posed by AI. Many creatives have reported that their work has been unfairly exploited by AI systems, leading to unlicensed reproductions of their written works, art, and music.

Baroness Beeban Kidron, who has been proactive in introducing amendments to the Data (Use and Access) Bill to enhance safeguards for creators, asserted that the Government must prioritise the interests of the UK. She commented, "It seems crazy that right now, when we see the insecurity created by over-dependence on the US, the Labour Government would give away the work and revenue of the UK's creative sector." Kidron further emphasised that the decision could adversely affect around 2.4 million individuals, insinuating that the Government is overly influenced by a handful of US tech companies, rather than prioritising the welfare of local creators.

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

## References

* <https://cepa.org/article/copyright-blocks-the-uks-ai-ambitions/> - This article discusses the UK government's plans to adjust copyright laws for AI development, highlighting the tension between fostering AI innovation and protecting creative industries.
* <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/politics/starmer-elton-john-paul-mccartney-ai-b2705368.html> - It reports on Sir Keir Starmer's response to artists' concerns about AI's impact on copyright, including comments from Sir Elton John and Sir Paul McCartney.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/cameron-mackintosh-keir-starmer-government-elton-john-simon-cowell-b2709381.html> - The article details opposition from Sir Cameron Mackintosh and other prominent figures to AI copyright exemptions, labeling them as undemocratic and harmful to creators.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - Although not directly found, this source is referenced in the query as the origin of the information about Keir Starmer and the dissent within his party regarding AI and copyright.
* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11928975/UK-culture-minister-says-AI-copyright-laws-urgently-need-reform.html> - This article might discuss the Daily Mail's coverage of the proposed AI copyright reforms and their impact on creators, but it was not directly available in the search results provided.