# House of Lords backs amendment to protect UK creators from AI-driven copyright theft



Recent developments in the UK’s legislative landscape reveal a significant shift towards protecting the creative industries from the encroachment of artificial intelligence. The House of Lords has voted in support of an amendment to the Data (Use and Access) Bill, aiming to clamp down on what critics describe as 'theft' of intellectual property by big tech firms. This proposal is seen as a crucial step in giving artists, writers, and creators greater control over their work and addressing the potential risks posed by AI technologies that have been mining vast amounts of artistic material without proper compensation.

For years, tech companies have trained their models using a plethora of content, ranging from literature to music, often without consent from creators. The recent amendment, supported by a broad coalition of peers across various political parties, challenges the government’s previous stance advocating for a copyright exception that would favour AI companies. This coalition includes Tory, crossbench, and Liberal Democrat members, reflecting a growing consensus on the need for more stringent measures regarding copyright protection.

Baroness Kidron, a crossbench peer and director of the acclaimed film "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," articulated the sentiments behind the amendment, stating, "We are not asking for special favours, simply that we provide transparency to stop the stealing of UK assets by offshore companies.” She underscored the significance of the creative industries, which contribute an impressive £126 billion to the UK economy, and urged the government to adopt the amendment or propose an alternative measure that ensures material transparency.

The Creative Rights in AI Coalition has echoed these sentiments, urging the government to heed the calls from the arts community. A statement from the coalition emphasised the importance of transparency in how creative works are being used by AI, framing the amendment as a necessary safeguard for the future of the UK’s creative landscape.

Concerns regarding AI's potential to exploit artists have been echoed by prominent figures such as Paul McCartney. The legendary musician has warned that AI could produce derivative works based on existing creations without compensating original artists, illustrating the risks through his own experiences with AI technologies. He has implored the UK government to reform copyright laws to ensure adequate protections for creators, rather than allowing tech giants to reap the benefits of their labour without due recognition.

The UK government's current approach aims to strike a balance between fostering AI innovation and safeguarding the rights of original content creators. Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer has acknowledged the importance of transparency in AI training processes, noting the government’s intention to implement rules that enhance visibility regarding how tech companies utilise creative works. However, details regarding the precise measures to be introduced remain sparse, leaving many in the creative sectors apprehensive about their rights.

Concerns have intensified surrounding proposed exemptions that would enable AI companies to use copyrighted materials unless creators actively opt out. Many organisations have unequivocally rejected this plan, asserting that existing copyright laws should be upheld. The Creative Rights in AI Coalition—comprised of numerous artists' organisations and media bodies—has called for strict adherence to copyright protections to avoid undermining the creative sector's integrity.

In a climate where the creative industries face significant threats from unregulated AI use, these recent developments signify a proactive approach by legislators. The amendment’s passage through the House of Lords represents a pivotal moment for artists in the UK, reigniting debates around copyright, ownership, and the ethical use of technology in creative fields. As the Bill heads back to the Commons, there is heightened pressure on the government to acknowledge and adapt to the concerns of artists, ensuring that the future of Britain's creative landscape is protected from the unchecked proliferation of AI technologies.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.
2. Paragraphs 4, 6, 7.
3. Paragraphs 6, 8.
4. Paragraphs 6, 8.
5. Paragraphs 6, 8.
6. Paragraphs 6, 8.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14704919/boost-Britains-creative-industries-AI-copyright-battle-House-Lords-backs-plans-stealing-work.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/dont-let-ai-rip-off-artists-beatles-star-mccartney-warns-uk-government-2025-01-26/> - Paul McCartney has cautioned that artificial intelligence (AI) could exploit artists and urged the UK government to ensure copyright reforms protect the creative industries. He expressed concerns that AI models could produce content based on popular works without compensating the original creators. In December, Britain proposed a way for artists to license their work for AI training but suggested an exception for large-scale use where rights aren't reserved. McCartney emphasized that proper copyright protection is essential for creative people, warning that only tech giants might benefit otherwise. He cited his own experience using AI to recreate John Lennon's voice, illustrating the risk of artists losing control over their work. The government is reviewing copyright laws, seeking to clarify legal ambiguities to support AI investment while protecting creators' rights. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/dont-let-ai-rip-off-artists-beatles-star-mccartney-warns-uk-government-2025-01-26/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.apnews.com/article/b260a4c6f0fdf732fb4994cdeb1710a4> - Paul McCartney has expressed concerns over potential changes to UK copyright laws that may allow artificial intelligence (AI) companies to use copyrighted materials unless creators opt out. McCartney argues this could lead to artists losing control of their work and damage Britain’s creative industries. The UK government is consulting on new copyright laws intended to balance creators’ control and compensation for AI use of their works, while supporting AI development. McCartney insists that the government should protect artists’ rights to their creations, preventing tech companies from profiting unfairly. Many organizations, including The Associated Press, support maintaining strong copyright protections under the Creative Rights in AI Coalition. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/b260a4c6f0fdf732fb4994cdeb1710a4?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/17f4c7ee-b1bc-4bde-8e92-bebb555479a2> - The UK government is working on rules to increase transparency about how tech companies train their AI models using creative works, following concerns from the creative industries about unauthorized and unlicensed use of their work. Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer announced that the government would introduce initial rules to ensure greater transparency about the content used by AI developers. This approach would allow the industry to detect if their work is being plagiarized. The government is in a delicate position between promoting the UK as a global AI hub and protecting its creative sector. Frazer acknowledged that AI is a significant issue not only for journalism but also for the creative industries. Specific mechanisms to improve transparency have yet to be detailed. In the EU, similar rules are being introduced that will require developers to publish a detailed summary of the content used for training. Musicians, filmmakers, and publishers have expressed concern about the unfair use of their work. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/17f4c7ee-b1bc-4bde-8e92-bebb555479a2?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2024/dec/19/uk-arts-and-media-reject-plan-to-let-ai-firms-use-copyrighted-material> - Writers, publishers, musicians, photographers, movie producers, and newspapers have rejected the UK government's plan to create a copyright exemption to help artificial intelligence companies train their algorithms. In a joint statement, bodies representing thousands of creatives dismissed the proposal made by ministers that would allow companies such as OpenAI, Google, and Meta to train their AI systems on published works unless their owners actively opt out. The Creative Rights in AI Coalition (Crac) said existing copyright laws must be respected and enforced rather than degraded. The coalition includes the British Phonographic Industry, the Independent Society of Musicians, the Motion Picture Association, and the Society of Authors as well as Mumsnet, the Guardian, Financial Times, Telegraph, Getty Images, the Daily Mail Group, and Newsquest. Their intervention comes a day after the technology and culture minister Chris Bryant told parliament the proposed system, subject to a 10-week consultation, would “improve access to content by AI developers, whilst allowing rights holders to control how their content is used for AI training”. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2024/dec/19/uk-arts-and-media-reject-plan-to-let-ai-firms-use-copyrighted-material?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-consults-on-proposals-to-give-creative-industries-and-ai-developers-clarity-over-copyright-laws> - The UK government has launched a consultation on plans to give certainty to the creative industries and AI developers on how copyright material can be used to train AI models. Supporting the UK Government’s Plan for Change, the move will help drive growth across both sectors by ensuring protection and payment for rights holders and supporting AI developers to innovate responsibly. Key areas of the consultation include boosting trust and transparency between the sectors, so right holders have a better understanding of how AI developers are using their material and how it has been obtained. ([gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-consults-on-proposals-to-give-creative-industries-and-ai-developers-clarity-over-copyright-laws?utm_source=openai))