# MPs reject AI transparency amendments sparking creative industry backlash



Proposals aimed at protecting the creative industries from the encroachments of artificial intelligence (AI) were recently rebuffed by Members of Parliament (MPs), sparking significant debate about the future of copyright in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. Technology Secretary Peter Kyle argued against amendments that sought to enhance transparency for copyright holders, asserting that both the creative sector and AI industries must thrive in tandem to bolster the UK economy.

During the parliamentary discussions surrounding the Data (Use and Access) Bill, peers advocated for measures that would provide assurances to creators by introducing requirements for transparency. This would potentially allow artists to track the use of their work within AI models. However, MPs voted against these amendments, with a majority affirming Kyle's view that fostering collaboration between the two sectors is paramount. He noted, “Pitting one against the other is unnecessarily divisive and damages both,” emphasising the need for a balanced approach that allows both industries to prosper.

Critics, however, expressed frustration with the government's stance. Dame Caroline Dinenage, chairwoman of the culture, media and sport committee, pointed out that many creative workers feel under siege as AI technologies increasingly draw upon their work without adequate protections. She articulated the urgency for clear and accessible information regarding the usage of copyrighted materials, warning that existing legislative frameworks may be insufficient to shield creators from exploitation.

Prominent figures from the creative community have echoed these concerns. Elton John, alongside other artists, has condemned the government's approach, which could potentially permit AI developers to utilise creative works without compensating original creators. John lamented the potential fallout for emerging artists and the emotional richness inherent in art. Similarly, Eric Fellner, co-chair of the British film studio Working Title, warned that such relaxed copyright regulations could detract from the substantial contributions of the creative sector to the UK’s GDP.

In an indicative move of protest, over 1,000 British musicians, including luminaries like Kate Bush and John, collaborated on a silent album titled "Is This What We Want?" This unprecedented protest showcases blank recordings, symbolising the potential loss of creative control should the proposed plans advance unchecked. The aim is to draw attention to the urgent need for reform in AI copyright laws, reinforcing the integrity of the creative industries.

Moreover, the sentiment among writers and authors is similarly apprehensive. Many have voiced their unease regarding unauthorised uses of their work, with some even reporting instances where their writing has been utilised to train AI without consent or compensation. One novelist recounted how Meta had scraped content from their novel, highlighting the risks posed by current legislative gaps.

As discussions continue in Parliament, critics insist that any regulatory framework should maintain robust protections for creators and ensure that their rights are respected and enforced rather than undermined. With bodies representing thousands of creative professionals uniting against the government’s proposals, calls for amendments that safeguard artistic integrity are gaining momentum.

MPs, including those from the opposition, have identified the government's plans as missteps, labelling them as missed opportunities to create a more equitable environment for both creators and technology developers. As Kyle acknowledged the need for responsive legal systems, many constituents remain sceptical about whether the government can strike the right balance to foster a healthy coexistence between AI and the creative sectors. The outcome of these discussions will play a pivotal role in determining the future dynamics of copyright legislation and the protection of the UK’s rich creative heritage.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: (1)
2. Paragraph 2: (1)
3. Paragraph 3: (1), (2), (3)
4. Paragraph 4: (4), (5), (6)
5. Paragraph 5: (4), (5), (6)
6. Paragraph 6: (5), (6)
7. Paragraph 7: (1), (6), (7)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/proposals-to-protect-creatives-copyright-from-ai-are-rejected-by-mps-IE27ETBKANPFBDZX642OCKU7LU/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/criminal-elton-john-condemns-uks-ai-copyright-plans-2025-05-18/> - Elton John has strongly criticized the UK government's proposal to relax copyright laws, allowing AI developers to train models on creative content without compensating original creators. Supported by artists like Paul McCartney and Ed Sheeran, John argues this move undermines the livelihoods of young artists and the emotional depth of art. Despite his Labour Party affiliation, John feels betrayed and vows to defend creators' rights. The government insists on consulting stakeholders and will not proceed unless it benefits both AI development and the creative industry.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/987cd00e-5685-4471-9b3a-c0fa847cb883> - Eric Fellner, co-chair of British film studio Working Title, has expressed concerns that the UK government's plans to ease copyright laws favoring AI developers could harm the UK's creative industries. He argues that the creative sector is a significant part of the UK economy, contributing substantially to the country's GDP. The government's proposal would mean that artists, authors, and companies have to 'opt out' of allowing their work to be used for AI training. This move has been criticized by numerous prominent British musicians and artists.
4. <https://apnews.com/article/dc80620c1c226a816048b87fb30309c4> - A silent album titled 'Is This What We Want?' has been released by over 1,000 British musicians, including notable artists like Kate Bush and Elton John, to protest proposed changes to U.K. AI laws that could allow tech firms to use copyrighted material to train AI models without creators' consent. The album's 12 tracks are recordings of empty studios symbolizing the potential loss of creative control. The protest aims to protect the interests of musicians and preserve the integrity of Britain's creative industries.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/f26bda64-1237-4188-8540-210367567089> - The author, a novelist, is alarmed by the unauthorized use of their work by AI models, exemplified by Meta scraping content from their novel 'Labyrinth' without consent or compensation. Despite appreciating AI's potential to enhance creativity, the author condemns the theft of intellectual property, a practice that threatens the UK's robust creative economy and copyright laws which have historically protected creators. Recent discussions in the UK parliament have focused on this issue, with notable resistance to government proposals to weaken copyright protections in favor of AI developers.
6. <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 Labour 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 on Tuesday that would allow companies such as Open AI, 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.
7. <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/378/culture-media-and-sport-committee/news/197222/abandon-artificial-intelligence-copyright-exemption-to-protect-uk-creative-industries-mps-say/> - The Government must follow through on its pledge and abandon plans to allow AI developers the free use of existing music, literature, and works of art for the purposes of training artificial intelligence to come up with new creations, MPs say today. In its second report on connected technology, the Culture, Media and Sport Committee warns that the Government’s original plan to exempt text and data mining by AI from copyright protection risks reducing arts and cultural production to mere ‘inputs’ in AI development and shows a clear lack of understanding of the needs of the UK’s creative industries.