**Copyright & what it means**

**Overview**

Copyright protects your work and stops others from using it without your permission.

You get copyright protection automatically - you don’t have to apply or pay a fee and there isn’t a register of copyright works in the United Kingdom.

You automatically get copyright protection when you create:

* original literary, dramatic, musical and **artistic work,** including illustration and photography
* original non-literary written work, such as software, web content and databases
* sound and music recordings
* film and television recordings
* broadcasts
* the layout of published editions of written, dramatic and musical works

You can mark your work with the © for copyright add your name and the year of created the work but whether you mark the work or not doesn’t affect the level of protection you have.

**How copyright protects and prevents your work being:**

* copied by other parties
* copies being distributed whether for sale or free of charge
* shown in public
* adapted in any way
* used by other parties on the internet

**Copyright overseas**

Your work could be protected by copyright in other countries through international agreements, for example [the Berne Convention.](http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/treaties/text.jsp?file_id=283693)

In most countries copyright lasts a minimum of life plus 50 years for most types of artistic works

**How long does copyright last:**

* Copyright protection starts as soon as a work is created
* For an artistic work the length of the copyright period is 70 years after the date of the creator’s death
* once your copyright has expired, anyone can use or copy your work

**Entering the i-dott Annual Surface Pattern design Competition**

* A condition of entry is that you signed all rights in the design/s over to

i-dott CIO

* Once you have signed the Assignment of Copyright all rights in the design/s are transferred to i-dott CiO for a time limited period not excessing 3 years
* Once this is registered on the i-dott Competition records you must not show, offer or other way promote the assigned design/s to any other party

More information can be found: <https://www.gov.uk/topic/intellectual-property/copyright>

**When is an design not a design**

Submitting the same design into different categories does constitute 2 separate entries:

Making tweaks to a design by removing or adding elements does not constitute 2 separate designs:

Moving the same elements around to create an alternative lay-out does not constitute 2 separate designs

Can you spot the difference? The one on the left is on a white background and the other is on a foil background. This does not constitiute 2 separate designs