

COPYRIGHT – Legal Definition

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](#).

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 exceeding 2 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>