



HOUSE OF LORDS

Baroness Keeley
Chair of the Communications and Digital Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW
Email: holcommunications@parliament.uk

Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

Rt Hon Liz Kendall MP
Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
22-26 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EG

27 March 2026

Dear Secretaries of State,

I am writing following the publication on 18 March of the Government's report and impact assessment on artificial intelligence (AI) and copyright under the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025. As you know, on 6 March, my committee published our report, *AI, copyright and the creative industries*. We welcome the Government's publications as constructive steps towards a more evidence-based approach to an issue of significant importance for both the UK's creative and AI sectors.

The impact assessment reflects a key point that we made in our report: that there is limited and uncertain evidence that the current copyright framework is the main barrier to AI development in the UK, or that weakening copyright protection would deliver substantial economic gains. We welcome the Government's commitment to developing its evidence base on how copyright impacts UK economic growth.

More broadly, we are encouraged by the Government's recognition that creators must be paid fairly for the use of their work, and that individuals and smaller organisations will need support if they are to participate effectively in emerging content licensing markets. We also welcome the proposed future work on technical standards, the labelling of AI-generated content and the harms caused by unauthorised digital replicas.

As our report made clear, the UK needs to move quickly towards a stable framework that gives confidence to rights holders and responsible AI developers alike. We welcome the Government's reiteration that it no longer has a preferred option on copyright reform. However, it should now go further and rule out explicitly a new commercial text and data mining exception with an opt-out mechanism, as we recommended in our report. Indeed, the Government should rule out any reform to copyright law that would remove incentives to license copyrighted works for AI training, such as the introduction of a 'commercial research exception'. The Government should also promote the development and adoption of sovereign AI models that deliver enhanced transparency and respect for copyright.

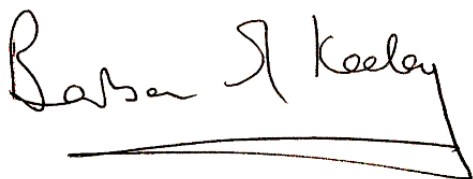
Our report was clear that the priority for the UK should be to strengthen licensing and enforcement within our existing copyright framework. Robust transparency requirements are a prerequisite to enable each of these to function effectively, as well as for rebuilding trust between the AI and creative sectors. Voluntary measures alone are unlikely to provide the degree of compliance needed, or the level playing field for developers that would foster responsible training data practices. We therefore called in our report for the Government to introduce proportionate, statutory transparency obligations.

While the 18 March publications make no firm commitments about this, we urge the Government to keep the matter under close review and to set out a clear timetable for action when responding to this letter. We would also welcome further detail on the expertise the Government intends to draw on to support its work on input transparency, particularly as it does not appear that a dedicated transparency taskforce will be established.

The coming months will be crucial in helping to reach final decisions and establishing a clearer long-term framework for both sectors. We welcome your confirmation that there will be opportunities for MPs and Peers to discuss these issues in the weeks and months ahead, and we ask that the parliamentary groups previously established be reconvened as soon as possible.

My committee will expect continued dialogue with Ministers as your proposed future work programme progresses. We also look forward to receiving the Government's response to our report on AI and copyright in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Baroness Keeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Baroness Keeley