

**From the Chief Executive and
Comptroller-General**

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Our ref:
Your ref:
Date 16 March 2009

Dear Colleague,

I want to update you on our progress on our copyright strategy and our plans for the coming months.

This is a busy time in the copyright world and we continue to take forward our work on existing projects. But we must also think about our future direction, which is why we launched the copyright strategy at the end of last year. Our copyright framework needs to be robust – it must help deliver reward, investment and jobs and must also reflect the interests of users. As we move towards a new Commission in Brussels later this year it is right that we have a proper discussion about our direction of travel.

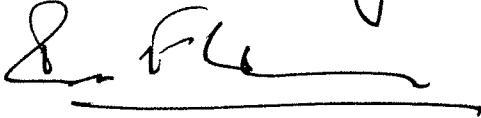
We want to encourage blue-sky thinking and involve as wide a range of voices in these discussions as possible. We have made some excellent progress to date, bringing together diverse groups of interests and engaging directly with consumers and SMEs. There is more work to be done though and this dialogue will continue over the next few months.

In December 2008 we published our Issues Paper (<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/c-policy-consultation.pdf>) to 'kick-start' these discussions. It has certainly done that. To date we have received over 120 responses, from a diverse range of interests. While the formal date for responses has passed we continue to welcome further comments from stakeholders on this document and on the wider issues.

Face to face dialogue is important too and we held a variety of events throughout February and March, including stakeholder roundtable workshops and direct discussions with consumers, SMEs and creators through regional events. Extra meetings and discussion groups are being set up so we can engage with the wide variety of interests who have expressed interest in this work.

The case for prompt action is clear but we must take care to consider these issues properly and to engage fully with stakeholders as our thinking develops. In reality this may mean that Summer 2009 will be too early for the final report on our work and that discussions will continue over the summer period. In early May we will report back on our engagement to date with stakeholders and begin to identify emerging issues for further discussion. SABIP has now begun its own work programme in the area of copyright and we will work with the SABIP Board going forward to ensure that our work is complementary.

In the meantime, if you have any observations or question about our work please visit our website¹ or contact us at copyrightfuture@ipo.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,


Ian Fletcher

¹ [http://www.ipo.gov.uk/pro-types/pro-copy/c-policy/c-strategy .htm](http://www.ipo.gov.uk/pro-types/pro-copy/c-policy/c-strategy.htm)