

Crown Copyright

What is Crown copyright?

Crown copyright is defined in section 163 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as covering those works:

"made by Her Majesty or by an officer or servant of the Crown in the course of his duties".

All works originated from Government have Crown copyright protection.

Duration

Published works are protected for 50 years from publication.

Unpublished works are protected for 125 years from creation or until published. If the work is published within the 125 year period, 50 years protection will begin from the year of publication.

Databases made by Her Majesty or by an officer or servant of the Crown in the course of his duties also enjoy the protection of [database right](#) of 15 years, renewable on each amendment.

Government departments often commission private sector individuals and organisations to produce copyright works for the Crown and in many cases, the copyright in these commissioned works is assigned to the Crown by contract.

A separate Parliamentary copyright category covers works made by or under the direction or control of either House of Parliament

OGL Open Government Licence

Most Government produced material can be freely copied, adapted, republished and disseminated under the terms of the OGL (Open Government Licence)

Please refer to the OGL Licence below for specific terms, requirements and exemptions.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2/>.

Range of Government copyright material

Crown copyright protected material can be divided into the following broad categories.

Legislative and judicial material which describes the process of Government

- Acts of Parliament
- Statutory Instruments, Statutory Rules and Orders
- Command Papers and other Departmental Papers published in the House of Commons Papers Series
- Court Judgments and Tribunal Reports

Quasi-legislative material which often describes how legislation is to work in practice

- Government Codes of Practice such as the Highway Code
- Published Departmental Manuals of Procedure

- Government forms
- Government posters and signs
- National Curriculum material
- Regulations which have statutory effect such as the Building Regulations Approved Documents
- Government circulars

Information specifically prepared by Government for public dissemination

- Press notices
- Government leaflets and brochures
- Headline statistics
- Consultation documents
- Departmental Annual Reports and Accounts

Material Outside of the OGL Licence - Delegations of Authority

The following categories are likely to require further licensing or permissions to reproduce or disseminate. Works under a Delegation of Authority (see the OGL guidelines at: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/our-services/delegations-of-authority.htm>)

Material which is primarily aimed at a specialist audience

- Technical Standards, such as those issued by the Ministry of Defence which assist defence contractors to prepare tenders for defence contracts
- Medical classifications
- Scientific data
- Research documents
- Papers of a scientific, technical and medical nature produced by scientists and other specialists within Government.

Value-added or discretionary works produced by Government

This covers material where there is not necessarily a statutory or operational requirement for Government to produce the material. It includes:

- Value-added statistical data
- Mapping data and products
- Official histories
- Photographs
- Illustrations
- General works produced by Government on a range of subjects. For example, How to Pass your Driving Test, Guides to the Public Record Office, CCTA PRINCE Guides on development of computer systems

- Database products developed by Government, often in conjunction with a private sector partner. For example DTI Market Studies
- Computer text retrieval software

Material that may not be reproduced under any circumstances

Material where there are security implications or where material could be used deliberately to mislead

- Documents bearing a security classification
- Statutory Registers and records such as Births, Marriages and Death, Land Titles and Company Registers and copies or extracts from other such Public Registers
- Standard documents such as passports, driving licences, birth, death and marriage certificates all of which are produced under security conditions to help prevent fraudulent use
- Government logos

Unpublished documents which are not the subject of any security conditions

- Public records in any media which are available to the public in the Public Record Office, the Scottish Record Office, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland or places of deposit appointed by the Lord Chancellor
- Text of ministerial papers and speeches

Further information on which categories fall under this licence can be found via the National Archives website at: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/government-licensing/what-ogl-covers.htm>

For general copyright advice please Copyright@mdx.ac.uk