

Ownership and Duration by Type of Work

The table below gives a general overview of who owns the copyright and for how long the copyright protection lasts. However, as this can vary depending on the type or age of the work, and the circumstances under which it was created, more information can be found by following the links on the 'Types of Work' guidelines page.

TYPE OF WORK	OWNER (If not created under employment contract or assigned by sale or contract)	COPYRIGHT DURATION Since CDPA 1988 EOYO = end of year of:
Literary	Creator - Author / Poet / Lyricist /Script writer	70 years from EOYO death of creator
Dramatic	Creator - Author / Play write	70 years from EOYO death of creator
Artistic	Creator - Artist / Sculptor	70 years from EOYO death of creator
Musical	Creator - Composer	70 years from EOYO death of creator
Typographical Arrangements	Publisher / Editor	25 yrs from publication
Crown Copyright (Published)	Crown	50 years from publication
Crown Copyright (Unpublished)	Crown	125 years from creation
Photographic	Photographer (for pre 1989, see information on Images in Type of Work)	70 years from EOYO death of creator
Films	Joint – Director, Producer, Script writer, etc.	70 years from EOYO death of last survivor
Broadcasts	Joint – Director, Producer, Script writer, etc.	50 years from broadcast
Sound Recordings	Joint - Recording Company, Producer, Performer	50 years from recording or 70 years from publication or made available to the public 70 years from recording for performance in sound recordings
Performances	Performer	50 years from public performance 70 years from recording for performance in sound recordings
Computer Programs	Code Writer / Programmer	70 years from EOYO death of creator
Databases	Creator (depending on type of content)	15 years DB renewable on each update and possibly 50/70 years ©
Multimedia	Creator (depending on type of content)	Depends on type, See above
Internet content	Creator (depending on type of content)	Depends on type, See above
Unpublished Work	Creator (depending on type of work)	Depends on type, See above
Orphan Work	Creator (depending on type of work)	Depends on type, See above
Trademarks	Organisation / Commissioner	10 years Registration + ©
Designs (Unregistered for 3D only and only valid in UK))	Designer	15 years from creation or 10 years from marketing
Designs (Registered for all aspects including 2D)	Designer	5 years from registration (renewable for up to 25 years)
Patents	Inventor	20 years from registration (renewable)
Moral Rights	Creator (except if employed to the create work i.e. No Moral Rights in employer owned work)	For the duration of Copyright (except False attribution,-20 years from death)

For copyright duration of works created before 1st August 1989, see the Copyright Duration Flow Diagram by Tim Padfield at: <https://www.museumscopyright.org.uk/private.pdf>