



ALLIANCE

FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

ALLIANCE WELCOMES ADDITIONAL PROTECTION FOR DESIGNERS

8th May 2013: The measures announced today in the Queen's Speech to increase the level of protection for UK designers are very welcome and the introduction of criminal sanctions for deliberate infringement of registered designs is certainly a step in the right direction. However, for any such changes to have real and lasting benefit for the UK's 350,000 designers criminal sanctions must also apply to unregistered designs rights.

The draft Consumer Rights Bill is an ideal opportunity to deal with the huge problem of consumer confusion online. The internet has become an online shop window for illegal goods and consumers are unaware that many of the sites they are directed to by reputable search engines are selling, or providing access to, illegal goods. We also note the proposed changes to trading standards powers and look forward to working with the Government and trading standards to ensure that any changes do not adversely impact the valuable work done by trading standards in combating IP crime.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT THE ALLIANCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Established in 1998, the Alliance for Intellectual Property (IP) is a UK-based coalition of 24 trade associations and enforcement organisations interested in ensuring intellectual property rights are valued in the UK and that a robust, efficient legislative and regulatory regime exists which enables the UK to draw the greatest benefits from those rights. With a combined turnover of over £250 billion, our members include representatives of the audiovisual, music, video games and business software, and sports industries, branded manufactured goods, publishers, authors, retailers and designers.

Our members work closely with trading standards and local police forces to reduce the harm caused by intellectual property crime in local communities and to ensure that legitimate businesses and traders are able to operate fairly. We work closely with Government Departments and the Intellectual Property Office to raise awareness of the value of and contribution made by IP and the harm caused when it cannot be effectively protected. We, and many of our members, are also participants in the IP Crime Group, which facilitates cross departmental dialogue and joint working amongst the relevant enforcement bodies and organisations.

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