



Alliance welcomes MPs' debate on the Hargreaves Review of Intellectual Property

The Alliance Against IP Theft welcomes today's Westminster Hall debate on IP and the Hargreaves Review.

The debate, secured by Pete Wishart MP, is an opportunity for MPs from across the political spectrum to highlight the contribution IP rich industries make to jobs and UK economic growth, in their constituencies and across the country, and to ensure Ministers are aware of potential unintended consequences of some of the Hargreaves recommendations before the Government response is published this summer.

Vice Chair of the All Party IP Group, Pete Wishart MP, said:

"This is a very important debate and I am delighted to have secured it on behalf of the 2.7million people whose jobs depend on the creative industries alone and countless others whose livelihoods depend on IP in other ways.

"It is great that the Government is taking a keen interest in IP but I am concerned that so many issues relating to IP seem to be piling up in the Government's inbox at the moment, from the implementation crucial sections of the Digital Economy Act, to its response to Hargreaves. This debate is a chance for the Government to hear our concerns and reassure the House that its response will be accompanied by a clear action plan and allow for proper consultation."

Susie Winter, Director General of the Alliance Against IP Theft said:

"UK IP law has proved excellent in supporting existing business transfer into the digital world and also allow for new digital entrants to the market. However, counterfeiting and piracy remain a huge drain on investment, creativity and innovation and, crucially, jobs. It is therefore very encouraging to see MPs from all sides of the House interested in this issue and keen to put their points to Ministers."

Notes to editors

1. IP's economic contribution to UK growth:
 - £65billion was invested in IP in UK in 2010
 - 10% of the growth in average labour productivity over the past eight years comes from assets protected by IP rights
 - Creative industries alone account for 2.7million jobs in the UK
 - BIS estimate that the creative industries alone contributed £16bn to UK exports in 2010, that figure does not include other IP rich industry sectors such as brand manufacturing

2. The Westminster Hall debate takes place between 14.30 and 17.30 on Thursday 7 July and was secured by Pete Wishart MP.