

PRESS RELEASE

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MPs unite with industry to celebrate the contribution made by intellectual property at Alliance Summer Reception

MPs united with industry to celebrate the economic and cultural contribution made by businesses and companies to the UK which rely on intellectual property (IP) last night at the Alliance Against Intellectual Property Theft's annual summer reception.

The event, hosted by John Whittingdale MP in Parliament, highlighted the importance to the economy, employment and cultural life in the UK of protecting IP rights. Keynote speeches were delivered by Dan Dark, Senior Vice President and Managing Director Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden (home to all of the Harry Potter films), Richard Scudamore, Chief Executive of The Premier League, and Ursula Mackenzie, Chief Executive of publishers Little, Brown and Chair of the Publishers Association.

John Whittingdale MP, Chair of the All Party Intellectual Property Group said: "This event was an important opportunity for MPs to show their support for the UK's IP industries which contribute so much to the UK economy and cultural landscape. Government needs to acknowledge that a huge number of businesses and their employees rely on IP; for example, the creative industries alone employ 1.5million people in the UK.

"The Alliance continues to be a leading champion of the IP industries and it was therefore great to see such a large turnout among Parliamentarians and industry representatives."

Susie Winter, Director-General of the Alliance Against Intellectual Property Theft said: "The UK is responsible for some of the most sought after music, films, TV shows, books, and video games in the world. We are home to world-leading brands and, in the Premier League, have the most successful football league in the world. IP is essential to each and every one of these successes. No-one attending the reception could be in doubt that rather than being an unnecessary regulation, copyright, trade marks and designs are a core property rights which contribute hugely to our lives."

Ursula Mackenzie, chair of the Trade Publishers' Council, The Publishers Association said: "As long as we in the UK continue to produce world-class books, records, films and programmes, I think it should be clear to everyone – readers, consumers, policy-makers, - that intellectual property is one of our country's most prized assets and should be supported in every way possible."



Members:

Anti-Copying in Design
Anti-Counterfeiting Group
Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society
British Brands Group
BPI (British Recorded Music Industry) Limited
British Video Association
Business Software Alliance
Cinema Exhibitors Association
Copyright Licensing Agency
Design and Artists Copyright Society
Educational Recording Agency
Entertainment Retailers Association
Federation Against Copyright Theft
Film Distributors Association
Motion Picture Association
Premier League
PRS for Music
Publishers Association
Publishers Licensing Society
UK Interactive Entertainment

Supporters:

British Jewellery, Giftware & Finishing Federation
Video Standards Council

The event was sponsored by The Premier League, who installed this year's Premier League's winning trophy at the reception, with MPs and industry members queuing to have their photo taken with the trophy.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

Established in 1998, the Alliance Against IP Theft is a UK-based coalition of trade associations and enforcement organisations with an interest in ensuring intellectual property rights receive the protection they need and deserve. With a combined turnover of over £250 billion, our members include representatives of the audiovisual, music, games and business software, and sports industries, branded manufactured goods, publishers, retailers and designers.

The Alliance is concerned with ensuring that intellectual property rights are valued in the UK and that a robust, efficient legislative and regulatory regime exists, which enables these rights to be properly protected. 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 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Intellectual Property Office to raise awareness of the harm caused by IP theft. 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.

About IP and the economy

IP industries are a great British business and cultural success story.

- IP is essential to the creative industries which support around 1.5m jobs, contribute over £36 billion to UK Gross Valued Added (GVA) (DCMS Creative Industries Economic Estimates) and makes a substantial contribution to UK export figures
- IP is also the basis for the £16 billion which companies invest annually in the UK economy by building brands, and allows the UK's brand-building industries (including advertising, marketing and design agencies) to generate around £1 billion in GVA through exports alone.
- The design industry employs up to 350,000 people and UK businesses spend around £35 billion on design each year

For more information please contact Amy Bourke or Grainne Magee on 0207 618 9105, or e-mail alliance@luther.co.uk

ABOUT THE PREMIER LEAGUE

The Premier League is the organising body of the Barclays Premier League with responsibility for the competition, its Rule Book and the centralised broadcast and other commercial rights.

The Premier League is a private company wholly owned by its 20 Member Clubs who make up the League at any one time. Each individual club is independent: working within the rules of football, as defined by the Premier League, The FA, Uefa and Fifa as well being subject to English and European law.