



ALLIANCE
FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Digital Economy Bill: Update

The Alliance for Intellectual Property has watched the Digital Economy Bill Committee meetings with interest. As expressed in our previous communications, we particularly support Clauses 26, 27 and 28.

The Bill Committee meetings gave the opportunity for the cross-party group of MPs to consider amendments to the Bill. The Alliance was most concerned with the following New Clause proposals:

- New Clause 3 which considered a Code of Conduct with a legal backstop
- New Clause 15 which considered the Value Gap and Safe Harbour
- New Clause 16 which considered e-book lending
- New Clause 33 which looked at pre-loaded IPTV boxes

Although the above New Clauses were all withdrawn, we are pleased that the Digital Economy Bill Committee had the opportunity to discuss these matters and for the Minister to provide clarification on what action the Government is currently taking to address the concerns of industry.

The Alliance will continue stressing the case for search engines to take more affirmative action in tackling illegal and infringing sites appearing easily, and we will also continue to discuss IPTV boxes with stakeholders as this is a growing problem for our members.

The Bill will now return to the House of Commons Chamber for the Report Stage, where further amendments may be made. We will continue to work with stakeholders and MPs to ensure the safe passing of the Bill and to address any concerns that may arise.