



ALLIANCE
FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

IP Crime Report 2015/16

The Alliance for Intellectual Property welcomes the publication of the IP Crime Report 2015/16, which was formally launched at the IP Crime Group meeting on Wednesday 28th September.

With representatives present from the IPO, Sussex Constabulary, Trading Standards, the CPS and rightsholders, in a pre-recorded video message Baroness Neville Rolfe stressed the importance of collaborative working for effective enforcement.

The UK Creative Industries continues to grow and strengthen our economy, reinforcing the necessity for an effective regime to enforce IP rights ensuring creators are properly protected from those who wish to infringe their copyright. To achieve this, it is imperative that the proper legal framework is in place, with the cooperation of law enforcement, government agencies, trade groups, business associations and IP intensive companies all working together collaboratively to enforce IP rights and to build on this to ensure better enforcement in the future.

Alarmingly, IP crime statistics continue to show high levels of activity for people accessing illegal sources for music downloads, film, TV, software and games. Although statistics indicated there has been some decline in illegal music downloads, we are seeing an upward trend in illegal TV programme downloads. The report suggests that uncertainty and lack of education in the differences between legal and illegal content plays a huge role in this, and the Alliance has always promoted the need for better education in this area. Further to this, we hope that Clause 26 in the Digital Economy – whereby the maximum penalty for those committing large scale online infringement of copyright will be brought into line with those exploiting copyright in the physical world – will act as a deterrent for making this content available.

It is also notable in the IP Crime Report 2015/16 that we are seeing a growing trend of legal online market places facilitating the trading of counterfeit and pirate products. However, interventions such as Operation Jasper are seeing this being tackled, with PIPCU reporting online marketplace takedowns.

The IP Crime Report does explain three key challenges that we continue to face: illegal downloading; set top boxes and the proliferation of Internet Protocol TV; and the availability of resources to enforce IP rights. Collaborative working is central to tackling these issues, by sharing data, possible solutions and best practice.

You can read the full report here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/annual-ip-crime-report-2015-to-2016>