**TEMPLATE LETTER**

This letter is designed for use to raise MP awareness of design (and copyright) issues following the recently announced press release on the [2025 Designs Consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-consultation-to-strengthen-uks-100-billion-design-sector), and [the Consultation papers](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-changes-to-the-uk-designs-framework) here. This is an excellent opportunity to engage and inform your MP of its importance. Did you know, for example, that the design economy is worth £100 billion to the UK’s GVA and employs 2 million in design and design skills. The majority are lone, micro and SME creative businesses.

**To make best use of this letter, we recommend you should:**

* Copy this letter onto your company letterhead.
* Send by both post and email, ensuring you include all your contact details in the covering email.
* Include image examples of originals and copies.
* Should you have any queries on using this letter, or wish to check anything you have included, please do not hesitate to contact info@acid.uk.com
* To find out your MP’s name, click [here](https://www.mysociety.org/wehelpyou/who-is-your-mp/?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAudG5BhAREiwAWMlSjOnZ7exiGqP-ZFvesyQ-D_5KDEa76-9DqWGArb8zNopsK-eHVv7wphoCviQQAvD_BwE).
* It is best to send to your MP’s constituency address; however if that is not possible, use the address below:

[insert MP name]
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

[Insert date]

Dear [name of MP]

As one of your constituents, I have a small, successful and design-led business based here in [insert area name] but trading in the UK / and EU / and internationally [delete as applicable].

I/We [delete as applicable] founded [insert name of company] on [insert date]. You can visit our website at [insert your website URL].

***Select from the following paragraphs:***

Our team at (insert company name] is made up of [insert number of employees], including [insert description of roles e.g. warehouse staff, freelancers, printers etc] all of whom rely on our business’ survival for their livelihoods.

***Or***

I am the creator of all of the designs you will see on my/our [delete as applicable] website I am entirely dependent on my business for my livelihood. Moreover, as such I entirely own the designs and copyright in my work.

Like so many others, I/we [delete as applicable], have concerns about the unauthorised use of our designs and copyright and the recently announced [designs consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-consultation-to-strengthen-uks-100-billion-design-sector) seeks to address this by simplifying what is to many, a complex set of design laws, and address and cost and time restrictions on SMEs taking legal action in the consistent “David & Goliath” copying issues they face. These lack of safeguards will leave our business vulnerable to unauthorised use and exploitation of our intellectual property (IP) and is an insurmountable threat to our income. The stress of being copied and losing our livelihoods is unimaginable.

I am a member / I am a supporter [delete as applicable], of Anti-Copying In Design (ACID), a trade organisation founded over 25 years ago to help lone, micro and SME designers protect their IP. ACID is also a campaigning organisation which works closely with government and the Intellectual Property Office on IP issues. ACID is a member of the Alliance for Intellectual Property and copyright infringement is close to the hearts of their members from the design, branded goods, film, sports, toy and hobbies and publishers’ sectors.

As the majority of designers rely on unregistered design rights, one of our ambitions is the intentional infringement of unregistered designs to be made a crime (in line with registered designs and copyright infringement) This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to influence design law and policy to make real changes. I would be most grateful if I could make an appointment with you to discuss the seriousness of these issues.

Following any discussion that we may have I would be grateful if you would consider tabling a question in parliament along the lines of ***“What safeguards is this government proposing to protect those within the design economy, for example, to introduce criminal provisions for the unauthorised use of unregistered designs in line with copyright and registered design infringement as a robust deterrent against consistent “David & Goliath” theft?”***

This is such a serious situation that I am also copying in the Minister for Intellectual Property, The Rt Hon Feryal Clark, Mr Chris Mills, Director of Enforcement and Policy at the Intellectual Property Office and Ms Dids Macdonald OBE Co-Founder and Chair of ACID.

The UK design economy as a whole is worth £100 billion and employs nearly 2 million in design and design skills, all of whom are lone, micro and SME.

The potential impact of the continued loss of designs to the behemoths of this world will potentially chisel away at our profits, the result of our sweat equity, talents, and creative innovation. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Your name
Position
contact details

Cc: Rt. Hon. Kanishka Narayan, MP (kanishka.narayan.mp@parliament.uk)
Chris Mills, Director of Enforcement, the Intellectual Property Office (Chris.Mills@ipo.gov.uk)
Dids Macdonald OBE., Co-Founder & Chair of Anti Copying in Design (ACID) (dids.Macdonald@acid.uk.com)
Laura Newbold Breen, CEO of ACID (Laura.NewboldBreen@acid.uk.com)