

**Proposed Reforms to Copyright Law:
Great if you're a Clown**



Ignorantia juris non excusat - ignorance of the law does not excuse. Did you know that every time you transfer a song from a CD to your MP3 player, your PC or your Mac you (technically at least) fall foul of copyright law? No? Well, you aren't alone – most people don't realise. The Government has announced changes to existing copyright law so as to remove restrictions on copying material from a CD to your computer or iPod. This will bring UK copyright laws into line with that of most other countries.

The Government has accepted certain recommendations, including the creation of a digital copyright exchange where licences for works the subject of copyright can be marketed and acquired. An announcement as to the mechanism of the scheme is due later this year, but it is thought the reforms will within the next decade supplement the UK economy by a whopping £2 billion annually.

Certainly it is great news for artistes such as comedians who will be able to parody a right holder's work without seeking permission. Research scientists will also gain: an exception is proposed that will allow use of valuable data hitherto protected by copyright laws.

Note that the new laws will still require you to gain the right holder's permission for Internet content sharing (e.g. on file-sharing sites).

We are in the midst of the digital age - and the proposed reforms can only boost the economy as well as the production of innovative new products and services. And coming soon: a whole host of spoof videos on YouTube!

For further information contact Anne Chambers, Solicitor and Head of Dispute Resolution and Intellectual Property at Parfitt Cresswell, Solicitors, 593-599 Fulham Road, London SW6 5UA, tel. 020 7381 8311, email anne.chambers@parfittcresswell.com.