

How long does Copyright last?

Format	Timeframe	Factors affecting duration	Duration of protection	
Published literary, dramatic or musical works			Life of the creator plus 70 years.	If the creator died BEFORE 1st January 1955 copyright has expired.
Unpublished literary, dramatic and musical works		Copyright does NOT expire if the work remains unpublished.	70 years after first publication, public performance, broadcast or sale of record.	If the work was made public BEFORE 1st January 1955 copyright has expired.
Published Editions	<i>Published prior to 1st January 1970.</i>		25 years after the end of the year of first publication.	
Artistic works (other than photographs)			Life of the creator plus 70 years.	If the creator died BEFORE 1st January 1955 copyright has expired.
Artistic works – photographs	<i>Taken prior to May 1969.</i>		If the photograph was taken BEFORE 1 January 1955 copyright has expired.	
	<i>Taken after May 1969.</i>		Life of the creator plus 70 years.	
Engravings		Published during creator's life.	Life of the creator plus 70 years.	If the creator died BEFORE 1st January 1955 copyright has expired.
		NOT published during creator's life.	Year first published plus 70 years.	If the work was published BEFORE 1st January 1955 copyright has expired.
Sound recordings	<i>Made prior to 1st May 1969.</i>	Copyright does NOT expire if the work remains unpublished.	Year first published plus 70 years.	If the recording was made BEFORE 1st January 1955 copyright has expired.
	<i>Made after 1st May 1969.</i>	Copyright does NOT expire if the work remains unpublished.	Year first published plus 70 years.	
Cinematograph films	<i>Made prior to 1st May 1969 and regarded as a dramatic work.</i>		Life of the creator of the film as a dramatic work or of the cinematographer (whichever is the longer plus 70 years).	
	<i>Made prior to 1st May 1969 and NOT regarded as a dramatic work.</i>		Life of the cinematographer plus 70 years.	
	<i>Made on or after 1st May 1969.</i>	Copyright does NOT expire if the work remains unpublished.	Year first published plus 70 years.	
Broadcasts (television and sound)	<i>Made prior to 1969.</i>		Not protected.	
	<i>Made on or after 1st May 1969.</i>		Year broadcast was made plus 70 years.	
Anonymous or pseudonymous works			If the work was first published BEFORE 1st January 1955 copyright has expired.	
Government publications – Crown copyright			Year of first publication plus 50 years.	
			For photographs the year the photograph was made plus 50 years.	

**** Where there are multiple creators for a work copyright does not expire until 70 years after the death of the last creator.**