

FOI Release
Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Intellectual property rights enforcement

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Information request:

In what ways can the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1998 be enforced in the United Kingdom Of Great Britain? Can you tell me which types of organisations are allowed to enforce the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1998 in the United Kingdom of Great Britain? Can you supply a list of these organisations by name and address?

Information released:

IP rights in the UK can be enforced through civil action, or criminal prosecution as well as civil action with respect to copyright and trade mark infringement.

The bodies that enforce the CDPA 1988 are the police and trading standards officers. Their powers concern the enforcement of copyright and trade marks. Enforcement of patents and registered designs is at present a civil matter only, though this may change with respect to designs in the wake of recent consultation. As you are probably aware, the Trading Standards Institute's offices are located across the United Kingdom and run by each local county council.

Organisations such as FACT (Federation Against Copyright Theft) also occasionally undertake prosecutions on behalf of their members.

The Intellectual Property Office publishes further information on enforcement in its Annual IP Crime Report and the UK IP Crime Strategy, both available at:
<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/ipenforce.htm> .