

**FOI Release**  
***Information released under the Freedom of Information Act***

**Title:** Washington Treaty

**Date of release:** 24 March 2016

**Information request:**

Are there any plans for the United Kingdom to accede and ratify the Washington Treaty on Intellectual Property in Respect of Integrated Circuits?

**Information released:**

The UK has no plans to accede to the Washington Treaty on Intellectual Property in Respect of Integrated Circuits, which was adopted in 1989. As a member of the World Trade Organisation, the UK is required to provide protection to the layouts of integrated circuits (Articles 35-38 of the Agreement on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)). Article 35 sets out the relationship between the TRIPS agreement and the Washington Treaty: "Members agree to provide protection to the layout-designs (topographies) of integrated circuits (referred to in this Agreement as 'layout-designs') in accordance with Articles 2 through 7 (other than paragraph 3 of Article 6), Article 12 and paragraph 3 of Article 16 of the Treaty on Intellectual Property in Respect of Integrated Circuits and, in addition, to comply with the following provisions." These further provisions can be found on the WTO website: [https://www.wto.org/english/docs\\_e/legal\\_e/27-trips\\_04c\\_e.htm#6](https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/27-trips_04c_e.htm#6) .