

Thank you, Mr Chairman, for the opportunity to speak, and thank you to WIPO for organising this fascinating session.

The IP system is critical to encouraging innovation. And we must ensure that it remains suitable even as the way we innovate changes. Data is vital to frontier technologies like Artificial Intelligence. The UK is formulating policies to support frontier technology and ensure that the IP system functions effectively and efficiently

In the UK, IP already protects data in a number of ways. In some circumstances copyright will be relevant. Where there has been a substantial investment in a database, a specific database right can apply. But, in many ways we are still learning how the IP system can best support data-driven innovations.

We are keen to hear from innovative companies with first-hand experience of the IP system and how it affects their investments in data and related innovations like AI. This is why we particularly appreciate this 4th conversation and its contribution to our understanding and the wider debate.

We have previously undertaken an extensive call for views on the interaction between IP and AI. Some respondents felt that data is not always accessible to properly support further research and development of AI. As a follow up to this, later this year we will be consulting specifically on how the IP system can best support the development and use of Artificial Intelligence. As well as looking at questions of patent and copyright laws in the UK that could potentially be amended to better support AI innovation, we will consider how best to enable text and data mining, leading to further innovations.

Looking at data more broadly, the UK is developing a National Data Strategy and has recently launched a public consultation on reforms to create an innovation-friendly data protection regime that underpins the trustworthy use of data.

One element is to simplify data use by researchers and developers of Artificial Intelligence and other cutting-edge technologies.

We would be delighted for innovative companies, academics with an interest in these areas as well as our more traditional IP stakeholders to contribute to these consultations. Equally, we look forward to continuing the multilateral discussions to further our understanding.

In conducting this work, we recall the need to strive for the right balance in the IP system. This is another reason why events like this one are so important. We must hear from a wide range of interests in order to properly understand where the balance lies.

In conclusion, the UK remains keen to be at the forefront of developments in IP in relation to AI and other data-driven innovations. We look forward to the conversation continuing.