

Types of intellectual property

Technology & Media

IP Right	What does it protect?	Registered?	Length of protection?
Copyright	Artistic, written, musical, dramatic works; sound recordings, films, broadcasts; typographical arrangements	No	From 50 years from the year it was made, up to author's life + 70 (depending on the work).
Trade marks	Words and logos that distinguish goods or services of one trader from those of others, colours, smells, and music in some circumstances	Yes (if not registered may be protected through the law of "passing off")	10 years from date of registration. Thereafter renewable for further periods of 10 years.
Designs	Unregistered: protects internal or external shape or configuration of an original design	No	10 years after marketing of production to the design or 15 years after creation of the design, whichever is earlier.
	Registered: protects appearance of a product resulting from lines, colours, shape etc. - can be a 2D design	Yes	5 years after registering; thereafter renewable for further periods of 5 years to a maximum of 25 years.
Patents	New and inventive products and processes	Yes	20 years from registration, provided renewed every year after the 5 th year.
Database Rights	Protects collections of works, data or materials which are arranged systematically or are individually accessible, where there has been substantial investment in obtaining/verifying/presenting database contents	No	15 years from the year it was made.
Confidential Information	Information in any medium (verbal, written etc.) which has not been disclosed to third parties apart from in confidence	No	As long as the information remains confidential