



Copyright in websites and other commissioned works

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Many businesses instruct a specialist website design company to develop a website on their behalf. What often gets forgotten is that the website design company will own the copyright in all the source code, written text, original graphic works etc, unless the business secures an assignment of that copyright. This can mean that the business itself will not have any control over its own website and will not be able to make any changes without the assistance of the website designer or to change the website designer should the relationship break down.

This is just one example of a commonplace situation. Any business instructing a designer to design any logos, other graphic works or to write text (for example for a brochure) will not own the copyright in that graphic work or text. The copyright in that graphic work or text will be owned automatically by the designer. For this reason, the business commissioning this work should always ensure that it takes an assignment of all graphic works or text from the designer. This is important because the designer will otherwise be in a position to dictate what is done with the graphic work or text.

If you wish to understand how to take such an assignment when commissioning the writing of any text or the designing of any logos, of a new website or of any other new creative work, remember to speak to us about how we can help you to put in place an appropriate agreement with the designer incorporating an assignment of copyright in any works created.