**P6 – Legal Implications of Using Images**

While it is possible (and even quite easy) to use any image you can find, on the internet or elsewhere, this is not always legal or the right thing to do.

**Copyright laws**If something is copyrighted, it means the idea and its likeness belong to someone and they cannot be used without permission. For example, any music artist will copyright their music to stop other artists from using them and making profit off their name.  
It is generally agreed that any content creators content is copyrighted unless they state otherwise. If an artist draws an image and shares it online, barring the terms & conditions stating otherwise, that image still belongs to the artist and cannot be used without permission. For example, nobody else can download the image and re-upload it, claiming it as their own.  
This applies to most media, including images, videos, graphics, games and music.

**Licenses**

There are different types of copyright, as listed below;

* Attribution

This license lets others distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon the work, even

commercially, as long as they credit the creator for the original creation.

* Attribution-ShareAlike

This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon the work even for commercial

purposes, as long as they credit the original creator and license their new creations under

the identical terms. This license is often compared to “copyleft” free and open source

software licenses. All new works based on the original will carry the same license, so any

derivatives will also allow commercial use. This is the license used by Wikipedia.

* Attribution-NonCommercial

This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, and although their new works must also acknowledge the original creator and be non-commercial, they don’t have to license their derivative works on the same terms.

* Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike

This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as

they give credit and license their new creations under the identical terms

* Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs

This license is the most restrictive of the six main licenses, only allowing others to download

the works and share them with others as long as they give credit, but they can’t change

them in any way or use them commercially.

**Ethics**  
While copyright laws state that one cannot steal other peoples content, it is still incredibly easy to do so. If the image can be seen on a webpage, it is possible to download it. Most stock photo companies counteract this by putting watermarks on their images.

**Free Images**It is possible to get free, royalty/copyright free images legally. For example, pixabay.com has over 770,000 images that are under the creative commons license, meaning they can be used and edited commercially without giving credit.