



Digital Economy Bill Clause 45: Public Lending Right (PLR)

The Public Lending Right (PLR) scheme is a model of good practice demonstrating Government support for a system that balances the need for access for social good against the right of creators to receive a fair reward for the use of their works.

In 2009 the Public Lending Right Act (1979) celebrated its thirtieth anniversary.

You will recall that to mark the anniversary the All Party Writers Group (APWG) campaigned for a review of the PLR scheme to take account of developments in library services beyond the lending out of printed books as envisaged by the original legislation. We were delighted that the Digital Britain Report recommended legislative action in this area and welcome the inclusion within the Digital Economy Bill of new powers for the Secretary of State to implement the necessary changes to the scheme.

Proposals in the Bill: Extending the PLR scheme to include a) 'non-print' books (audiobooks/ e-books) thereby allowing for claims against the fund from narrators and producers of audiobooks and b) digital loans on-site e.g. e-books and digital audiobooks uploaded to an e-reader/ MP3 player by the librarian for individuals to read or listen to at home and then return.

We hope that you will continue to support this Clause as the Digital Economy Bill goes through the second reading in the Commons on 6th April.

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