

News Release
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Digital Economy Act – Extension to the Public Lending Right is a triumph for authors

The All Party Writers Group (APWG) has been successful in persuading the government to agree to a review of the current scope of Public Lending Right (PLR). Audio books have long been lent in public libraries, without the author being remunerated for the loan. With e-books likely to have a big impact on the way people borrow from libraries, it is important that the PLR rules, which have been in place for the past 30 years, should reflect current technologies.

The APWG is delighted that it has been able to help update PLR legislation so writers are rewarded for the lending of their works by public libraries regardless of the format.

Janet Anderson, Chair of the APWG said: *“I am delighted that the government saw fit to include a clause on the extension of Public Lending Right in the new Act. At a time when our creative industries are so central to the economic lifeblood of the UK, it is essential that writers are properly rewarded for all uses of their work, whether it be on paper, digitally or through the loan of their work in libraries.”*

The Public Lending Right, is currently under threat from economic and efficiency cuts. It is vital that the current PLR fund is maintained and the proposed increase in funding to cover the additional loans enabled by this legislation is ring-fenced against further cuts.”

Public Lending Right is an important source of income for many writers. The APWG is keen to ensure all writers maintain their ability to receive fair compensation for any uses of their works.

For Immediate Release

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About All Party Groups

All Party Groups provide an opportunity for Members of Parliament to help keep the Government and Opposition informed of opinion both inside and outside Parliament on policy issues.

ALCS – Protecting and Promoting Authors' Rights

ALCS protects and promotes authors' rights concerning their intellectual property and moral rights to ensure they are fully respected and fairly rewarded. ALCS is committed to fostering an awareness of the value of copyright issues amongst writers as well as the wider public who use, enjoy and benefit from the written word in all its forms.

Set up in the wake of the campaign to establish Public Lending Right in 1977, ALCS is a not-for-profit company that has distributed a total of £230 million to writers since its inception.

In its role promoting and protecting authors' rights, ALCS consults regularly with policy makers in the UK and Europe over copyright, digital rights management and intellectual property matters.