

Extension of Public Lending Right to Rights holders of Books in Non-print formats – response to the DCMS consultation by Newcastle City Council

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's consultation on the Extension of Public Lending Right to Rights Holders of Books in Non-print Formats.

1. We believe that the proposed expansion of the PLR scheme will help promote and deliver reading services to new audiences (particularly the committed 'e' user. It will also provide much greater scope to offer more choice and customised/personalised access to particular client groups, for example housebound and visually impaired readers. It will also remove the need for public libraries and rights holders to negotiate individual licenses for lending books in non-print formats.
2. We would agree with the formats included in paragraph 17 of the consultation.
3. We would also agree with the 'lending methods' included in paragraph 18, and have no concerns about them.
4. Agreed.
5. We cannot comment accurately on such rights holders current practice, but suspect that such rights holders do not enforce their unwaivable right, or at least not systematically. This is an area of some confusion.
6. We suspect this is the case.
7. We suspect that such arrangements are not effective, and know for certain that rights holders do not feel adequately remunerated
8. We believe that the inclusion of such rights holders in the Scheme will ensure greater certainty of payment for those who register.
9. We strongly agree that the proposed expansion will benefit rights holders, libraries, the creative sector...and significantly, **customers**.

To conclude, this development would be an enhancement of the public library lending service and a broadening of choice for all citizens

Tony Durcan, 16 October 2009

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