

Establishing the Legal Deposit Advisory Panel Consultation: A Summary of Responses

The Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) launched the consultation on 'Establishing the Legal Deposit Advisory Panel' on November 2004. The purpose was to elicit views on the proposals relating to the constitution of the Legal Deposit Advisory Panel (LDAP), in particular the terms of reference and panel membership. The consultation ran until 16 February 2005, and this is a summary of the responses received.

There was unanimous support for DCMS plans to establish LDAP in order to advise the Secretary of State on the content and timing of Regulations which would implement the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 (LDLA).

The Joint Committee on Legal Deposit, whose members include all six legal deposit libraries and seven trade associations representing publishers, endorsed the proposals for a LDAP. The proposals were also fully supported by the Digital Content Forum, whose membership includes a number of publisher associations and trade bodies.

Some respondents made suggestions about interests that should be represented on the panel, for example two respondents recommended that one of the independent posts should be offered to a person who could represent the interests of people with disabilities, in particular visually impaired and blind people, for whom digitisation has the potential to increase access. The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers recommended that not-for-profit publishers be represented on the panel in addition to commercial publishers. The British Film Institute advised that they wished to be represented on the panel, because of the increasing inclusion of moving image and sound within non-print publications

The Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance agreed that the panel would require members who had expertise in copyright, media law and intellectual property, but added that expertise in licensing would also be required. They also recommended that one of the four independent members should be "drawn from the wider library and information profession". The Northern Ireland Publications Resource supported the proposal to appoint a member to the panel to represent the interests of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

We have considered the responses to the consultation, and do not intend to amend the role specifications for panel members to make provision for further specified groups. However, this does not preclude anyone from applying to the LDAP if they believe they have the necessary skills and experience. As stated in the terms of reference the LDAP has the power to co-opt members and/or establish sub-groups when considering particular types of media. This will ensure that the interests, views and expertise of relevant parties are taken into account, at key stages during the implementation of the LDLA.

The department will now advertise posts on the Legal Deposit Advisory Panel with an aim of making all appointments to the panel by June 2005.

Any feedback on either the consultation document or the responses should be directed to Toby Nerval at 2-4 Cockspur Street, London, SW1Y 5DH or emailed to **legaldeposit@culture.gsi.gov.uk**