

Dear Mr Gowers,

I wish to give you my strongly held view that I am opposed to the extension of the copyright period.

The larger record labels or their predecessors who made the original recordings have fifty years to recoup their investment and to pay the artist, assuming the artist was on a percentage deal and not a flat fee as some were.

They do not re-issue the vast majority of their back catalogues as the financial rewards are not big enough for large organisations, so those with musical interests away from the mainstream have had to make do with whatever originals can still be found in whatever condition they may happen to be in. Only when they go out of copyright have we been able to obtain copies put out by some small dedicated labels whose interests are as much in preserving the material as making a profit, indeed some seem to be non-profit-making.

If the copyright extension goes ahead, a large number of people will not be able to buy or to hear the music they like. Please do not penalise those with interests away from the mainstream just so that artists and companies who have already been well compensated for their fifty-year-old work can reap more rewards.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony C Austin