

Dear Mr Gowers,

I would like to express my concern over possible changes to intellectual property rights, specifically to the law on recorded music copyright. Recorded music has a fifty year copyright rule from the date of issue, and I think to extend it to a possible 95 years would do a disservice to music lovers.

As a lover and buyer of vintage music, I can state that we have been well served by a multitude of small independent record companies who have responded in a business like manner to the demands of a much smaller, but profitable customer base. These companies often invest a lot of time and effort in the restoration of such music, and to the continued availability of it to existing and newer audiences. Basically, they have placed in the market place a plethora of music that would not be there otherwise. Their efforts are creating a small but significant contribution to the British economy, which but for them, would not be there at all. Enterprise and initiative should I believe be valued, fostered and supported.

The original record companies are just not interested in catering for a smaller market base or a smaller profitable venture. I have spent a lot of time writing to them begging for the release of particular artists, many of whom were THE stars of their day. Almost always, they do not reply and they show no interest in releasing music that will not generate large profits. One of the worst offenders currently is a record company that recorded the vast majority of the stars of former times. How does extending the copyright therefore help the public who seek the music, or indeed the economy generally? The music we like will not be there to be purchased or enjoyed.

Please consider my points in your deliberations, and keep to the fifty-year rule. It's enough time for the artists and the record companies to make a profit.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Bradley