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**By Email and Post: [gowers.review@hm-treasury.gov.uk](mailto:gowers.review@hm-treasury.gov.uk)**

Dear Mr Gowers,

It has only just come to my attention that the Chancellor has asked you to lead an independent review to examine the UK's intellectual property framework.

I note that the call for evidence closed on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2006 but would hope that my suggestion might still have the opportunity for consideration.

I have already previously written to the Government proposing that legislation should be passed to bring Shakespeare's works into copyright in perpetuity. The royalties thus derived would then be used to establish a national fund for the artistic development of young British Artists in all spheres of the Arts.

We already have something of a precedent when the Callaghan Government extended The Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital's copyright on J. M. Barrie's Peter Pan.

This would also level the playing field for today's Playwrights, who complain that Producers will not take a chance on new works, when royalty-free Shakespeare plays are available to them.

International support for such an idea could be canvassed on the basis that other countries could select an iconic artist, whose works could similarly be brought into perpetual copyright; Germany's Beethoven and Austria's Mozart being obvious examples.

Furthermore, the assumed birthday and confirmed death day of Shakespeare, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, should be designated as a Public Holiday. As this is also St George's Day, and the birthday of J.M.W. Turner, what could be a more appropriate day for an additional Public Holiday? Also this is an issue the Government have recently been looking at, bearing in mind the paucity of UK national holidays by comparison with other European countries.

I hope you will find these suggestions of interest and relevant to the scope of your Review.

Yours sincerely,

**Anthony H Ratcliffe FRSA**