

Dear Sir

I am concerned that the Government is considering extending the current 50 year term for copyright on recorded music. Over the last decade there has been a considerable amount of recorded material reissued, often by small specialist companies. Had the copyright period not elapsed there is no doubt that the vast majority of these treasures would have remained locked away in record company vaults.

Such companies are not philanthropic institutions, and nor does one expect them to be. Nevertheless, their treatment of singers and musicians was exploitative, and royalty payments were not introduced until they were forced to do so. They now use that system to argue for the extension of copyright protection, overlooking the fact that most small companies operate within MCPS, to the benefit of retired musicians and their estates.

To put it bluntly, they have had fifty years in which to see a return on their initial investment. That is more than adequate, and there is no case to extend it. I do hope that you will take these views on board and recommend that the status quo be maintained.

Yours faithfully
Barry McCanna