

From: Colin Dean
Chairman, International Military Music Society (UK Branch)

Dear Mr. Gowers,

I read with great concern about the proposal to increase the period of copyright protection on recordings from 50 years to 95 years.

I believe that Government policy generally is to give special consideration to what are termed minority interest groups, yet it is these very such groups that will particularly suffer.

Our society, for example, would like to preserve historic recordings from events prior to the second world war which were issued on 78rpm discs. Only a very small number of these records exist and they are naturally very fragile. We would hope to make the recordings available to interested persons of the current and future generations.

There is no profit motive for what will be very small runs; the purpose would be to preserve the sounds for a small number of interested people. It is unlikely that these recordings would survive the proposed 95 year period, resulting in a loss of part of the nation's heritage.

The recording companies that own these would not be remotely interested in re-issues for such small numbers with no serious opportunity for profit.

I very much hope that a sensible compromise can be reached, perhaps exempting such re-issues with a run of, say 250 or less.

Alternatively, perhaps a very simple solution would be to exempt re-issues of 78rpm records.

Yours sincerely

Colin Dean