

Dear Sir,

With regards to the proposed "Mechanical Copyright Extension" I would like to make the following point:

This extension is of concern and valuable to people who hold copyright on material that they can exploit for commercial gain and I have no strong views on this. What is worrying is if there strong commercial lobbying results in a blanket cover of all recorded material over 50 years old. There is a large body of material that has no practical commercial value but is vital for research and valuable to enthusiasts in many areas such as dialect, tradition music / song and minority music that represents cultural practices now rare or extinct.

As an example I would site the recordings made by the BBC, at public expense, of the traditional music and singing of the British Isles in the 1950's and then for many years locked away.

I therefore believe it is vital that material that cannot be shown to be available to the public in a fare commercial form should be exempt.

With thanks Malcolm Austen