

Dear Mr Gowers,

If the copyright period of musical performances is extended, Mellotone Records will go out of business. Mellotone Records was established to re-issue records of hot dance bands and has a very small catalogue of CDs which cater for the interests of enthusiasts all over the world. You can look at our catalogue at: [www.Mellotonerecords.com](http://www.Mellotonerecords.com)

The kind of sums required to license recordings would make it impossible for my record label to produce any further CDs. Yet the big companies have lost all interest in re-issuing their own recordings from this period and have no interest in meeting the needs of the niche market that Mellotone Records serves. The extension of copyright would make these vintage recordings even harder to obtain.

The proposal to extend of copyright to 70 years or life plus seventy years will merely benefit the big companies and not the performers. Musicians have been poorly served by record companies over the years. My father was one such musicians who performed for a flat fee prior to 1939 and in consequence received no royalties on the few records that were reissued in the 1970s.

A fair situation would be that there should be no copyright on sound recordings made prior to 1956 (50 years). On recordings made subsequently, the record company would retain copyright until the death of the artist subject to:

- a) the company paying appropriate royalties to the performer(s)
- b) the company keeping the recording in their catalogue

If either of the two conditions above are not met, then copyright should revert to the performer for the rest of his/her life.

I understood that the purpose of the review was to enable innovation. However, I fail see how the extending the current copyright in sound recordings period back from 1956 to 1936 serves this purpose.

I would be please to be kept informed of the process of the review. I am in touch with the Sir Peter Soulsby MP and have also asked him to keep me informed.

Ned Newitt  
Mellotone Records