

To whom it may concern.

I understand that there is a review currently underway as to the time limits that attach to certain copyrights. Currently Mechanical Copyright exists for 50 years and I gather there is a possibility of this being extended to 95 years and that this extension may be made to act retrospectively

It is important that in approaching the review process that the wider ramifications of any change are fully taken on Board. I write as someone who has an interest in certain types of music that on the face of it are often not considered commercial by the current holders of the copyright. This tends to lead to the music not being available in CD etc format to those people who have an interest in it. In general terms the music I speak of may not have any great commercial value (to the copyright holder) but it has an enormous cultural value to Society in general.

When the copyright currently runs out after the 50 years there is a reasonable chance that enthusiasts make copies available to those few (too few) people who are interested in the music. This leads to no loss in commercial terms to the previous copyright holder - but it does have great cultural benefits.

Given that recording of Music is a relatively recent innovation, extending the time limit and there being a continuance of the Music not being made available - will in the long run lead to a Cultural Loss.

I write this as someone living in Ireland and I think that this fact tends to make a further point that needs making - the extent of those people who will be affected by your review extends well beyond the current holders of the copyright.

Thank you for taking the time to read this e mail.

Yours Sincerely.

Tom Duffy.