

Dear Mr Gowers,

Following my email of 15th April, I have had time to look more closely at your proposed extension to the copyright on mechanical recordings.

I still feel that 95 years is too long an extension and would suggest 75 years as a more practical period.

It seems to me that the main reason for the current proposal is to safeguard performers working during the last 50 years. The reason given by record companies that they expend large sums on taking gambles with young and unknown performers and wish to make as much profit as possible. This is fair comment.

However, I am still very concerned that if the 95 year rule is adopted that the current parent record companies (i.e. those who have taken over older companies such as HMV, Columbia, Regal etc.) will have control of recordings made since 1911 onward. As most of today's record companies have shown little or no interest in reissuing the recordings of the great Music Hall and Variety periods which lasted well into the 1940's. That work has been left to the private enthusiasts of that type of performer..

In closing my I suggest that consideration be given to the possibility of setting any increased copyright period from a specific year - say 1950.

Yours sincerely
John Adrian

Dear Mr Gowers,

I have just received a long e.mail from Mr Tony Barker concerning the proposed 95 year extension to the copyright law for recordings. In principal I am strongly against such an extension. As an afficiando as well as an archivist for a well known Music-Hall organisation I know that my members will do everything in their power to fight this proposal. From my preliminary knowledge of this proposal I consider that it is another case of Big Business trying to hold control the market - even though they have no intention of making their copyright available to those who are really interested in the preservation of the heritage of the British Theatre. When I have had more time to look into the details of this proposal I shall contact you again.

Yours sincerely
John Adrian