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Jeremy Browne M.P.
Houses of Parliament,
Westminster,
London.

Dear Mr Brown

I am writing to point out an anomaly which should be brought to the attention of Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP and Andrew Gowers who has been appointed to review the copyright term.

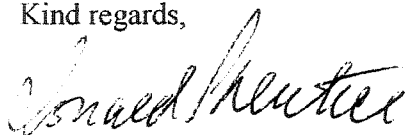
As a former professional musician it has come to my notice that in the U.K. the copyright term for sound recordings is 45 years shorter than in the USA, where it is 95 years from release of a sound recording.

From the late 1950's and throughout the so called 'Swinging Sixties' I was a session musician and took part in recording many hundreds of records. Many of these were big hits for famous names such as Cilla Black, Petula Clark, Adam Faith, Cliff Richard, Englebert Humperdinck, Frank Ifield, Helen Shapiro, Dusty Springfield and Frankie Vaughan. Recordings of all of the above are still popular and often played on radio request programmes.

Performers have a shorter copyright term (50 years after release) than other creators, such as composers, photographers, film directors, writers and graphic artists. Copyright is increasingly important for musicians in generating royalties and it is also important to me to augment my meagre state old age pension. Some recordings I performed on were made in the late 50's, within a very few years the copyright on these will run out and any payments will cease.

I would ask that you add your voice to support the campaign to extend the copyright term in line with those in the USA and Europe.

Kind regards,



Ronald Prentice