

To whom it may concern:

There is a response, co-ordinated by the Music industry journal "Music Week" which urges a recommendation to extend the term of copyright of sound recordings, from 50 years. Of course, this publication is right to canvas those who support its view, but I am concerned that the view expressed is one of a specialist interest group, whose opposition group does not have the same co-ordinated voice.

The 50 year copyright provides a welcome and valuable service to an ageing population who, for once, can see their interests served by a free market. The copyright laws which are in place rightly provide a valuable protection to active artists, but this often "materialises" their intellectual property, allowing those artists to distribute their material in a way that may be against the public's interest. This is fair enough for a given period of time, because it helps incentivize the artist into producing material. However, it also allows the artist to artificially place their recordings out of affordable reach of a supportive market. It seems only right that eventually the ownership of the material should pass back to the public whose demand inspired the material, and that it should do so within their lifetime.

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