

Dear Sir/Madam

I am emailing you to express my concern about plans to extend Mechanical Copyright from the present 50 year limit to 95 years, and further to make it retrospective.

There are a number of small record companies based in this country that provide an excellent service making pre-war and/or historic recordings of music available to the interested collector. They do so at meagre financial reward to themselves as mostly it is a labour of love for likeminded individuals.

They are able to undertake such activities because the music in question is no longer in copyright and they are not obliged to pay high copyright fees to large commercial organisations, who, through the process of mergers and acquisitions over the years may be in a position to claim copyright over such recordings. Such organisations are unlikely to be interested in making these recordings available themselves due to a perceived lack of commercial viability.

As I understand it, the proposed change in legislation would therefore force many of these small operations out of business and deprive the public of access to music that has a great historic and cultural value.

I would therefore like to respectfully request that the Review takes the activities of such organisations under consideration in its consultation of copyright legislation and find a means that will allow them to continue to function and continue to provide their invaluable service.

Yours Sincerely
Neil Rennoldson