



Pete Wishart MP
Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Intellectual Property
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0PW

14 February 2017

Dear Pete,

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Intellectual Property Inquiry

UK Music is the umbrella body representing the collective interests of the UK's commercial music industry, from songwriters and composers to artists and musicians, studio producers, music managers, music publishers, major and independent record labels, music licensing companies and the live music sector.

UK Music exists to represent the UK's commercial music sector, to drive economic growth and promote the benefits of music to British society. A full list of UK Music members can be found in the annex.

The music industry is worth £4.1 billion to the economy and generated exports of £2.2 billion in 2015. The industry now employs 119,020 people. Based on UK Music's annual Measuring Music report, the value of music the sector has grown by 17% over the past four years, outperforming much of the rest of the UK economy.¹

UK Music is responding to your request to hear whether there are new challenges to the intellectual property framework and what the Government should do to either strengthen the law or improve enforcement of protection.

Copyright is of fundamental importance to the music industry. It enables creators to derive a financial return for their work and provides an incentive for businesses to invest in creative content.

Copyright infringement remains a significant challenge to the music industry with 78 million music tracks being accessed illegally between March and May 2016. 20% of internet users participated in some form of illegal music activity online during the same period.

We are providing a very brief response to the two questions you are asking as part of your inquiry which is already underway:-

¹ <http://www.ukmusic.org/research/measuring-music-2016/>

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1) *What are the emerging threats to intellectual property your business or industry is facing?*


In terms of emerging threats to intellectual property, the availability of stream ripping software used to render licensed streams into permanent downloads threatens business models for legitimate users and right holders. Whilst this is not a new phenomenon it is taking on renewed significance. According to MUSO there were 7.2 billion visits to copyright-infringing stream-ripping sites between January 1 to September 2016, representing a 60% increase in visits from the equivalent period in 2015.² The ease of converting music streams into unlicensed downloads via sites such as YouTube-mp3.org is becoming increasingly well documented³ and is also a potential threat to the ability to self-release. We ask that the APPG inquiry looks into the challenge of stream ripping further.

2) *What two things would you like to see changed to improve the protection or enforcement of intellectual property?*

1. Greater responsibility for search engines when displaying, and linking to, legal content for users searching for music on these services. As part of discussions on the Digital Economy Bill, UK Music has been calling for a “backstop” power to ensure that there is a code of practice between search engines and rightsholders in relation to copyright infringement. Such a measure would enable the Government to fulfil a manifesto pledge to “work to ensure that search engines do not link to the worst-offending sites”.⁴
2. Greater responsibility for online services that play an active role, such as Facebook, YouTube, DailyMotion, bandCamp, Vimeo and MetaCafe, in the provision of content. They should not have safe harbour protection and should be required to secure licensing agreements with rights holders. The current legal ambiguity and imbalance has created a distortion in the digital market. The proposals in the Draft EU Directive in this regard are welcome.

UK Music would be happy to assist and provide further information in relation to this inquiry where possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jo Dipple'.

Jo Dipple
CEO, UK Music

² <http://www.musicbusinessworldwide.com/music-biz-faces-rampant-piracy-threat-stream-ripping-jumps-60-2016/>

³ <http://www.breitbart.com/big-hollywood/2016/08/03/stream-ripping-google-creating-music-free-literally/>
<http://www.musicwatchinc.com/blog/bad-company-you-cant-deny/>

⁴ http://www.ukmusic.org/assets/general/DEBill_HouseOfLords_SecondReading.pdf

Annex

UK Music's membership comprises of:-



- AIM – Association of Independent Music - representing over 850 small and medium sized independent music companies.
- BASCA - British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors – BASCA is the membership association for music writers and exists to support and protect the professional interests of songwriters, lyricists and composers of all genres of music and to celebrate and encourage excellence in British music writing.
- BPI - the trade body of the recorded music industry representing 3 major record labels and over 300 independent record labels.
- FAC – The Featured Artists Coalition represents and promotes the interests of featured recording artists in the music industry.
- MMF – Music Managers Forum - representing over 500 UK managers of artists, songwriters and producers across the music industry with global businesses.
- MPG - Music Producers Guild - representing and promoting the interests of all those involved in the production of recorded music – including producers, engineers, mixers, re-mixers, programmers and mastering engineers.
- MPA - Music Publishers Association - with 260 major and independent music publishers in membership, representing close to 4,000 catalogues across all genres of music.
- Musicians' Union representing 30,000 musicians.
- PPL is the music licensing company which works on behalf of over 90,000 record companies and performers to license recorded music played in public (at pubs, nightclubs, restaurants, shops, offices and many other business types) and broadcast (TV and radio) in the UK.
- *PRS for Music* is responsible for the collective licensing of rights in the musical works of 114,000 composers, songwriters and publishers and an international repertoire of 10 million songs.
- UK Live Music Group, representing the main trade associations and representative bodies of the live music sector

For more information please contact Tom Kiehl, Director of Government and Public Affairs, UK Music on tom.kiehl@ukmusic.org or 020 3713 8454.