

30<sup>th</sup> January 2015

The Rt Hon David Cameron, MP  
The Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA.

Dear Prime Minister,

The British Copyright Council represents those who create, hold interests or manage rights in literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works, performances, films, sound recordings, broadcasts and other material in which there are rights of copyright and related rights. The BCC has an interest in the effective development and application of the Digital Market within the EU. It is the means by which the creators, innovators and businesses making up the creative sector in the UK will secure payment for use of their works in the future.

The UK Government Paper (published in December 2013), linked to possible EU copyright reform, helpfully stressed the importance of any changes to copyright policy being built upon a robust evidence base. In the course of 2014, debates in both Houses of Parliament, gave strong support to the need for thorough research and hard economic evidence. The BCC is, therefore, very surprised by the latest announcement (“UK vision for Europe’s digital economy” published at <http://engage.number10.gov.uk/digital-single-market/>) and sent as a letter from you to the President of the European Commission, which appears to ignore and undermine this approach and which is to the long term detriment of the digital marketplace which the Government is seeking to develop.

With our world renowned creative industries now worth £71.4 billion a year to the UK economy, a strong copyright regime, that allows creators and other rights owners to benefit from the use of their work, is vital. The focus of the announcement and the “non-paper” is “data” but the digital market is not solely about “data”. As such, sweeping statements linking the value of promoting data exchange directly to support for changes to copyright law that completely override recognised methods of securing payment or fair compensation for rights holders for the use of their work are misguided, particularly when this approach appears to set aside Government’s previous caveats about evidence based policy.

The statement in the “non-paper” that copyright exceptions to allow research, education and text and data mining and the rejection of copyright levies in all forms will simply “provide a major boost to European innovation” is not backed by evidence. Further copyright exceptions will not lead to economic growth but will deprive many of those working within the vibrant and diverse creative industries across the UK, and elsewhere in the EU, of any incentive for innovation and the right to enjoy the rewards of that innovation and creativity, within markets that are founded on the fields of education, research and the information delivery and indeed, on services to consumers as a whole.

The BCC would urge the Government to restate its recognition of the importance of evidence based policy in this field and to clarify its intentions.

Yours sincerely,



Janet Ibbotson  
Chief Executive Officer

c.c. The Rt. Hon. Dr. Vince Cable, MP, Secretary of State, Department of Business  
Innovation and Skills  
The Baroness Neville Rolfe, DBE, CMG, Minister for Intellectual Property and  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Business Innovation and  
Skills  
Dr. Ros Lynch, Director, Copyright and IP Enforcement Directorate, IPO