



26 July 2012

The Hon Ed Vaizey MP
Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Ed,

UK Music welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Government's consultation on the Video Recordings Act.

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. The members of UK Music are listed as an annex.

In responding to this consultation we write in support of the position articulated by one of our members, the BPI, in their joint letter with the BBFC, BVA, VSC and ERA to you on the 9 July.

The position articulated in the 9 July letter is shared by the rest of the membership of UK Music.

UK Music supports Option 2 in the Government's consultation which lowers the threshold at which videos lose their exemption from classification under the Video Recordings Act.

UK Music recognizes that there is a small number of works which are exempt yet potentially harmful or unsuitable to children. Age-appropriate classification and bespoke consumer advice would be appropriate for works that fall below the proposed new threshold for exempt works.

We would also like to reiterate the point made in the 9 July letter which acknowledged the majority of exempt works causing concerns are not music videos. Music videos are integral to our industry. They are enjoyed by the public, often showcasing innovative technological developments, and are creative art-forms in their own right. We do not believe reclassification of exempt works will have an adverse effect on this important part of our wider culture.

Yours sincerely,

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

Jo Dipple, Chief Executive

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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 – with over 2,000 members, BASCA is the professional association for music writers and exists to support and protect the artistic, professional, commercial and copyright interests of songwriters, lyricists and composers of all genres of music and to celebrate and encourage excellence in British music writing
- The BPI representing over 440 record company members
- MMF - Music Managers Forum - representing 425 managers throughout the music industry
- 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, on behalf of 50,000 performers and 6,500 record companies, licences the use of recorded music in the UK
- PRS for Music is responsible for the collective licensing of rights in the musical works of 85,000 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