

29 September 2020

Dear Colleague,

**PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT RATE PER LOAN FOR PAYMENTS IN RELATION TO THE
2019/20 PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT SCHEME YEAR**

I am writing to seek your views and, if appropriate, the views of those you represent, on the above matter.

As you are aware, the Public Lending Right (PLR) is a right for authors and other rights holders to receive payments from a central fund in relation to public lending of their books in the UK. For the PLR Scheme year of 2019/20 the PLR applied to the lending of physical books, ebooks and audiobooks, as well as the remote lending of e-books and e-audiobooks from public library services.

The British Library Board is responsible for making an annual recommendation to the Secretary of State of the rate per loan to be paid from the PLR fund to registered authors, illustrators and other contributors to compensate them for the loan of their books from public libraries. The rate per loan is calculated on the basis of the size of the fund available and an estimate by the British Library of the total number of loans of their registered works, obtained by way of a sample of public libraries in the UK.

The British Library Board has proposed a rate per loan of 9.55 pence for payments in relation to the 2019/20 PLR Scheme year. This sum represents an increase of 0.52 pence, from 9.03 pence to 9.55 pence, on the rate per loan for 2019/20 payments. This proposed increase reflects a reduction in the estimated number of loans of books registered for PLR.

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport notes the British Library Board's recommendation that the payments in respect of the PLR Scheme year 2019/20 are made at an increased rate per loan of 0.52 pence and propose to amend the PLR Scheme accordingly by way of Statutory Instrument.

However, before any amendment is made, the Department seeks your views on this proposal, by no later than 5.00pm on 27 October 2020.

Please send your response, by email, to the DCMS Libraries team, at:
rate_per_loan@dcms.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'S. Bennett', with a horizontal line underneath.

Sheila Bennett

Head of Libraries Strategy and Delivery