



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

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Dear Colleague,

PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT RATE PER LOAN FOR PAYMENTS IN RELATION TO THE 2018/19 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 by libraries in the UK. For the PLR Scheme year of 2018/19, the PLR applied to the lending of physical books and audiobooks, and as you are aware, the remote lending of e-books and e-audiobooks from public library services are also included for the first time.

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 9.03 pence for payments in relation to the 2018/19 PLR Scheme year. This sum represents an increase of 0.51 pence, from 8.52 pence to 9.03 pence, on the rate per loan for 2018/19 payments. This proposed increase reflects the central fund being unchanged and a reduction in the estimated number of loans of books registered for PLR.

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 2018/19 are made at an increased rate per loan of 9.03 pence and propose to amend the PLR Scheme accordingly by way of Statutory Instrument.

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However, before any amendment is made, the Department seeks your views on this proposal, no later than **5.00pm on Friday 29 November.**

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

Yours sincerely



Sheila Bennett
Head of Libraries Strategy and Delivery