



Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport

28 October 2021

Dear Colleague,

**PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT RATE PER LOAN FOR PAYMENTS IN RELATION TO THE SCHEME YEAR 2020/21**

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 2020/21 the PLR applied to the lending of books, audiobooks, e-books and e-audiobooks from public libraries (n.b. for PLR year 2020/21 the remote lending of e-books and e-audiobooks does not apply to Northern Ireland, although this will change with effect from the 2021/22 PLR Scheme Year).

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 registered works, obtained by way of a sample of public libraries in the UK.

Library services were never completely closed during even the most stringent COVID national restrictions and the sector continued to deliver much needed services, including the loan of physical books, e-books and audio books. However, the restrictions have affected lending overall and in turn the proposed PLR rate per loan for the PLR Scheme year 2020/21 – further details are included in the attached Annex.

The British Library Board has proposed a rate per loan of 11.26 pence for payments in relation to the 2020/21 PLR Scheme year. This sum represents an increase of 1.71 pence, from 9.55 pence to 11.26 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.

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 2020/21 are made at an increased rate per loan of 11.26 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 Wednesday 24 November 2021. Please send your response, by email, to the DCMS Libraries team, at: [rate\\_per\\_loan@dcms.gov.uk](mailto:rate_per_loan@dcms.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

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

Sheila Bennett

Head of Libraries Strategy and Delivery