



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

1st Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

www.gov.uk/dcms

21 October 2024

Dear Colleague,

PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT RATE PER LOAN FOR PAYMENTS IN RELATION TO THE SCHEME YEAR 2023/24

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

As you know 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. The PLR applies to the lending of books, audiobooks, e-books and e-audiobooks, as well as the remote lending of ebooks and e-audiobooks from public library services.

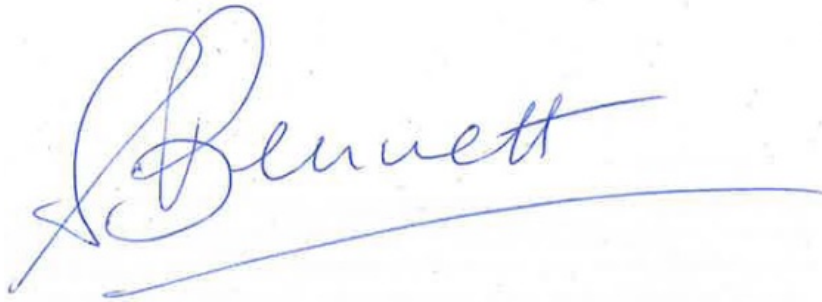
The British Library Board makes an annual recommendation to the Secretary of State for a change to the rate per loan to be paid from the PLR fund to registered authors, illustrators and other contributors to compensate them for the loan of their books from public libraries. This is calculated by dividing the available funding by the estimated number of loans of PLR-registered books. The British Library reaches this estimated figure by collecting actual loans data from a representative sample of public libraries throughout the UK and then 'grossing' up using loan figures obtained by the ACE Libraries Data Group (English Libraries only), the PLR sample, directly from Library Authorities, and through estimation (using established methodology) where actual figures have been unobtainable.

The British Library Board has proposed a rate per loan of 11.76 pence for payments in relation to the 2023/24 PLR Scheme year. This represents a reduction of 1.93 pence - from 13.69 pence to 11.76 pence - from the rate per loan for 2022/23 payments. This proposed reduction reflects an increase both in the number of books which have been registered for PLR and the number of qualifying book loans over the previous PLR Scheme year. This reduction is likely to have a minimal impact on the overall distribution of earnings, with payments between the different bands closely matching previous years.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport notes this recommendation and proposes to vary the PLR Scheme accordingly, and to bring the variation into force by statutory instrument.

Before any variation is made, the Department seeks your views on this specific proposal, by no later than 5.00pm on Friday 15 November 2024. 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 that reads "Sheila Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Sheila Bennett
Head of Libraries Strategy and Delivery