



CVS Rochdale **Policy Briefing**

PPL & PRS FOR MUSIC ANNOUNCE PILOT JOINT LICENSING SCHEME IN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ON MUSIC LICENSING

On November 12th 2009 a joint statement was issued, PPL and *PRS for Music* announced their intention to develop a pilot joint licensing scheme in the Third Sector, in response to the Government's announcement of changes to the legislation for music licensing. The two music licensing bodies will develop a scheme working with charity and community groups, building on *PRS for Music's* long experience of enabling music use in Third Sector organisations.

Notes Regarding These Issues

1. Following a consultation, the Government has announced the removal of the music licensing exceptions in Section 67 and Section 72(1B)(a) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. These exceptions applied to Third Sector organisations playing sound recordings in certain circumstances. Removal of these exceptions brings UK in line with the rest of Europe and gives performers and record companies the same rights as songwriters in the UK. The Government is also removing S128A and S128B which allowed it to refer PPL to the Copyright Tribunal. Instead, licensees will be able to refer PPL to the Copyright Tribunal. The changes will take effect on 1 April 2010.
2. The details of the pilot joint licensing scheme will be worked out between PPL, *PRS for Music* and the umbrella charity bodies represented by Community Sector Law Monitoring Group, including Community Matters, NCVO, the Girl Guides, ACRE, CCPR, NCVYS and the Churches' Legal Advisory Service.
3. PPL has committed to a full consultation with the Third Sector to ensure the smooth implementation of the legislative changes. PPL is already working on the consultation with members of the Community Sector Law Monitoring Group.
4. The consultation will gather information on how charities use music to boost fundraising, enhance the atmosphere of community buildings, motivate staff and volunteers and accompany aerobics classes and similar activities. More information on how music is used is available at www.musicworksforyou.com.

ABOUT PPL

PPL is the music licensing company which, on behalf of 42,000 performers and 5,000 record companies in the UK, licenses recorded music.

ABOUT PRS FOR MUSIC

PRS for Music is the leading copyright and royalty collection society representing 60,000 songwriters, composers and music publishers. A not-for-profit organisation, it ensures music creators are paid whenever their music is played.

PRS for Music provides business and community groups with easy access to 10m songs through its music licences. These licences provide royalties which create a future for music by supporting creators while they continue to write.

PRS for Music has been at the heart of the music industry since 1914.

More information is available at www.prsformusic.com/charityandcommunity

For further information from PPL please contact:

Jonathan Morrish – (44) 20 7534 1245 or jonathan.morrish@ppluk.com

Or Clare Goldie – (44) 20 7534 1121 or clare.goldie@ppluk.com

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For further information from PRS for Music please contact:

Barney Hooper – (44) 20 73064548 or barney.hooper@prsformusic.com

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NCVO Meeting

In March 2010 NVCO has been meeting with PPL and PRS and expressed disappointment after it gained no concessions from talks with music licensing authorities over the proposed removal of the charity exemption from licensing fees. While charities and not –for-profit organisations have always had to pay licensing body PRS for Music, which collects royalties on behalf of music writers, composers and publishers, the Government has now proposed they should also pay a fee to PPL, which collects royalties on behalf of performers and record companies.

If agreed by Parliament the charge, which applies to a wide range of events such as fundraising discos, tea dances, community drop-in sessions or where it is used in charity shops create a more cheerful atmosphere for shoppers and volunteers, would come into force.

Will This Affect Your Group?

A total of 103 MP's have signed a motion in Parliament calling to charities to maintain exemption from paying this fee. A total of 805 people have signed a petition on Number 10 Downing Streets website and 483 people have joined a Facebook group opposing the change. You can campaign expressing your concern over the proposed legislation to Lord Mandelson. If you would like a copy of this letter please contact s.harper@cvsr.org.uk and I will be happy to email the letter for you/your group to sign and send to the House of Lords. These changes are due to happen at the end of April 2010 it is important to have your say regarding these changes.

To see the No 10 petition visit: <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/dontstopthemusic/>

To see the Facebook group visit:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=274770375866&ref=nf>

CVS Rochdale Policy Briefing Update

Music License Fee Put on Hold

Plans to remove the charity exemption from music licensing fees have been put on hold because there isn't enough time to change the law before the general election.

The change, which NCVO has been fighting, would allow licensing authority Phonographic Performance Limited to charge charities and community groups to play recorded music and radio stations in charity shops and at events. It could cost the sector an estimated £20m, politicians have warned. The change is to be introduced by a parliamentary measure known as a statutory instrument.

MPs must be given 40 days to object to a statutory instrument after it has been discussed in the House of Commons.

Because the motion has not yet been tabled, there will not be time for it to be passed before Parliament is dissolved on 12 April. The earliest the plan could now be put before the House of Commons is 18 May. It would then pass to the House of Lords for approval.

While charities and not-for-profit organisations have always had to pay licensing body PRS for Music, which collects royalties on behalf of music writers, composers and publishers, the Government has now proposed they should also pay a fee to PPL, which collects royalties on behalf of performers and record companies. If agreed by Parliament, the charge, charities would be forced to pay the fees if they play recorded music in their own premises. This includes fundraising discos, tea dances, drop in centres where music is on in the background, where volunteers are listening to music in the back of charity shops or for staff Christmas parties. Every charity shop or building will be charged individually.

Have Your Say!

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