From:	Richard Gadsby
To:	Section52CDPA
Subject:	Objection to repeal of Section 52 Copyright, Design & Patents Act 1988 - a photographer"s view
Date:	22 December 2015 13:53:05

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to state my objection to the above proposed repeal of Section 52 of the Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988 as it will have a potentially disastrous affect on my business supplying material to the publishing industry - in terms of trying to gain copyright clearance for contentious items that appear in supplied photographic images.

I am a freelance photographer (for the past seven years) supplying creative photographic editorial feature material of home owners' interiors to various magazines.

These titles include: Ideal Home, Country Homes & Interiors, 25 Beautiful Homes, Period Living, Country Living and many more.

The basis on which we ALL survive is on the understanding that we are able to supply appealing feature stories that share the full passions of our home owner's individual style without fear of being potentially sued for some form of copyright infringement in doing so.

These features are showcases for interior designers' work, furniture makers (including kitchen and bathroom companies) and various artists at all levels.

Where possible the writers of these features gain as much information about these items and services, so inspired magazine readers can make contact directly with designers and artists or put ideas together for themselves.

It is a positive endeavour for all involved, being inspired by ideas leads to both the purchase and commission of goods and services from those suppliers and broadly has a positive effect on the wider economy.

What is unworkable is to obtain copyright/licence clearance for all contentious items that appear in these photographs, it is both impossible and unworkable. Usually items can be identified by the writer (or homeowner) for the feature, but often it will be old or no longer available, in which case magazines will ask for an alternative/similar product.

Often these items are a collection made over many years (including vintage and secondhand items) and put together in the context of the homeowner's home. We could even, potentially, be chased by the original designer or a product made for a large company. This is beyond any kind of reasonable working practice, even with all good intentions.

I urge you to consider the wider issue here, if this change goes ahead and we as photographers are then chased continually by agencies for copyright infringement fines or worse a criminal offence for 3D works infringement, we will without protection go out of business.

That benefits nobody and will cut off supply to a creative publishing industry that showcases UK talent at all levels.

The print media/publishing business is under constant pressure to remain profitable (they are ultimately products for creating advertising revenue) because of the business changes in a digital age, indeed my previous editorial position was made redundant in the economic downturn in 2007/8, before I became a photographer. Opening small businesses or individual professionals such as myself to a potential legal storm will add further, untenable pressure to an industry straining to survive.

Yours sincerely

Richard Gadsby

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