

Government response to a consultation on the Public Lending Right rate per loan 2018

January 2018

**INTRODUCTION**

The consultation ran from 28 October to 26 November 2016. A consultation letter was sent to 20 major groups representing the interests of authors, and the Devolved Administrations **INTRODUCTION**

The consultation ran from 26 October to 24 November 2017

A consultation letter was sent to representatives of authors, public library authorities and other stakeholders in the public library sector in the UK, and the Devolved Administrations. A copy of the consultation letter was made available on the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/public-lending-right-plr-rate-per-loan) website.

Fourteen responses were received - twelve agreed with the proposed increase of the PLR rate per loan to 8.20p, and two confirming no comment. See table of responses below:-

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Organisation | Yes | No | Additional comments |
| Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society | X |   | Recognise volunteer-run libraries in PLR. Support comprehensive and efficient public library service. Maintain PLR funding at next spending review.  |
| Booksellers Association | X |   | Increase PLR funding at next spending review. Ensure that when PLR extended to include remote e-lending the measures maintain balance between stakeholders. |
| British Library | X |   |  |
| Members of public (7 Authors) | X |   | Six responses supported the rate increase and one had no comment. Other points: Recognise volunteer-run libraries in PLR. Increase PLR funding at next spending review. Support comprehensive and efficient public library service. Support inclusion of provision in Digital Economy Act 2017 to extend PLR to include remote e-lending. Include all public libraries in PLR sampling. Extend PLR eligibility to British authors living anywhere in the world. |
| Northern Ireland Government | X |  |  |
| Society of Authors | X |   | Recognise volunteer-run libraries in PLR. Increase PLR funding at next spending review. Support comprehensive and efficient public library service. Support inclusion of provision in Digital Economy Act 2017 to extend PLR to include remote e-lending. |
| Society of Chief Librarians | X |  |  |
| Welsh Government |  |   | Confirmed that no comments on proposed rate change.  |

**Other comments made in responses to the consultation**

Some of the responses raised other points relating to the Public Lending Right (PLR) and to public libraries in England but outside the scope of the consultation.

**Volunteer-run libraries and the PLR Scheme**

The PLR applies to loans by local library authorities in the United Kingdom of books within their collections. Most public libraries are managed by the library authority, with a number being run with support from volunteers or local community groups. A library authority’s service provision may, if it so decides, include loans of books in its collections from a volunteer-run or supported library, and the PLR may therefore apply. The PLR would not apply to loans of books from libraries outside the public library service of a library authority.

**Comprehensive and efficient public library service**

Under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, library authorities are responsible for providing “comprehensive and efficient” local public library services. This means they must provide public library services which meet local need while taking into account available resources. The Government established the Libraries Taskforce (jointly with the Local Government Association) in 2015 to work with the libraries sector in England to promote good practice and ensure libraries help meet the needs of the communities they serve.

**Extension of PLR to include remote loans of e-books**

The Government is committed to ensuring that authors are recognised for e-lending by public libraries. Measures are included in the Digital Economy Act 2017, which completed its Parliamentary stages on 27 April 2017, that will extend the PLR so that e-books lent by public libraries in the UK will be eligible for the PLR. DCMS has since been working with the British Library on the steps needed to implement the measures, including updates to the secondary legislation.

**PLR Funding**

The 2015 Government spending round confirmed that PLR funding is maintained at the same level in cash terms until 2020.

**Other changes to PLR Scheme**

The Government will continue to consider with the British Library the operation of the PLR Scheme and whether changes to it may be necessary in future.

 

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