

### **Public Lending Right – Government Response**

On the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2013, DCMS published its [response](#) to the Government consultation on the proposed transfer of the Public Lending Right functions from the existing body

There were 1015 respondents to the consultation, 948 of whom did not think that PLR functions should be transferred to another body. While acknowledging that the overwhelming view is that the PLR office is “excellent”, “effective” and “efficient”, Government’s response is that it will transfer the PLR’s functions into another body.

The BCC asked Maureen Duffy, its President of Honour, author and campaigner for PLR to comment. Maureen said:- “Our response is that while we are sorry that there has had to be this upheaval and uncertainty we are pleased and relieved that the extremely efficient and author friendly service of the PLR office in Stockton has been guaranteed for 10 years, subject to review after five years, and that Dr Jim Parker is to continue to head it for 2 years though we would have preferred this to be at least 5, especially in view of the work he has done at an international level where the UK is seen as a leading light in the field.”

A number of responses to the consultation, including the BCCs, raised the question of whether there might be a conflict of interest for the British Library. BCC members may be reassured by Government’s statement that:- “The British Library sees getting the balance right – the balance between the rights of creators to be recognised and rewarded for their work, and the public interest in ensuring access to, and exchange and repurposing of, information and ideas – as intrinsic to a healthy creative economy and education sector. In short, the British Library’s position is that it operates at the fulcrum of the copyright balance.”