

# **Press Release from the Copyright Licensing Steering Group (CLSG)**

**[25] March 2013**

**For immediate release**

## **From idea to reality: the Copyright Hub takes shape**

The Government today agreed funding to enable the creative sector to embark on Phase 1 of developing the Copyright Hub.

With Government finance in place the first phase of the Copyright Hub will go live this summer. The Hub will give users – both businesses and consumers - valuable information on copyright licensing and signpost them to organisations willing to grant licences.

Twelve organisations have already signed up to provide services through the Hub in Phase 1.

Peter Leatham, Chief Executive of PPL said:

“We are delighted to be involved in the Copyright Hub. PPL’s collective licensing of recorded music and videos is itself an example of existing work by rights holders to aggregate copyright on behalf of 60,000 record companies and performers, manage data and simplify licensing.

The Copyright Hub will build on such structures and databases across the creative sector, becoming a valuable tool to further assist copyright users in obtaining licences and finding out more about copyright and licensing. This will hopefully contribute to the further growth of a creative sector that is already culturally and economically crucial for the UK.”

Richard Hooper, who recommended building the Hub in his report on streamlining copyright licensing for the digital age<sup>1</sup> said:

“The Copyright Hub, linking to a wide array of databases and digital copyright exchanges, has the clear aim of helping consumers, rights users and small businesses find their way through the complexity of copyright and thus allow them to license copyright works much more easily and at a lower transaction cost.

The Copyright Hub until now has been just an idea. Today it begins to become an exciting reality.”

[ENDS]

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<sup>1</sup> *Copyright works: Streamlining copyright licensing for the digital age*. An independent report by Richard Hooper CBE and Dr Ros Lynch, July 2012, IPO. Available to download at [www.ipa.gov.uk/dce-report-phase2.pdf](http://www.ipa.gov.uk/dce-report-phase2.pdf)

## **Note to Editors**

### **The Copyright Hub**

The Copyright Hub, built and led by the UK's music, publishing, audio-visual and images industries, will be a portal with intelligent connections to a wide range of websites, digital copyright exchanges and databases in the UK and around the world.

The Copyright Hub aims to streamline copyright licensing for the digital age by providing a marketplace for rights both across different sectors of the creative industries and across national borders, with ease of use and low transaction costs being the key features. With easier routes to licensing, it is anticipated that creators will see a higher return for their works and the creative industries will grow.

According to DCMS, the Creative Industries are worth more than £36bn a year and employ 1.5million people in the UK, accounting for around £1 in every £10 of the UK's exports. (27 Feb 2013<sup>2</sup>)

The twelve organisations providing services in Phase 1 are: the BBC, the British Association of Picture Libraries and Agencies (BAPLA), Copyright Clearance Centre (CCC), Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA), Federation of Commercial Audio-visual Libraries (FOCAL), Getty Images, the Newspaper Licensing Agency (NLA), Pearson, the Picture Licensing Universal System (PLUS), PPL and *PRS for Music*.

The Hub is one of a number of strands of work being taken forward under the guidance of the Copyright Licensing Steering Group (CLSG), all aimed at simplifying the process of obtaining licences for copyrighted material. Further information on the work strands can be found at [www.clsq.info](http://www.clsq.info).

### **Contact**

For more information on the Copyright Hub, please contact Dr Ros Lynch, Director of the Copyright Licensing Coordination Office (CLCO), at [ros.lynch@pearson.com](mailto:ros.lynch@pearson.com)

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/making-it-easier-for-the-media-and-creative-industries-to-grow-while-protecting-the-interests-of-citizens>