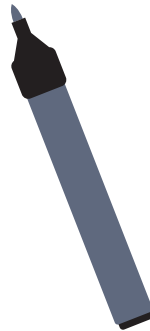




SUPPORTING THE WRITERS OF **TOMORROW**

Early Findings and Priorities
from the All Party Writers Group
2018 Inquiry into Authors' Earnings



Priorities to support UK Authors

As the APWG further reviews the issue of authors' earnings, it calls for urgent action on the following:

Creators Council

A channel of communication to keep government in regular contact with creators and their representatives would help drive good policy making in the digital age. An equivalent exists for the business elements of the creative industries, but not for creators themselves and their representative bodies.

Implementing the Copyright Directive

The new EU Copyright Directive will benefit our creators and support the continued success of the UK's creative industries and cultural exports. Once the Directive has been adopted, the UK should implement its provisions at the earliest opportunity.

An exhaustion framework for the UK

A European copyright 'exhaustion' framework has ensured certainty for UK authors and publishers. After leaving the EU this must be continued or replaced with a 'national exhaustion' framework.

The UK gold standard for copyright

The UK has achieved a strong, modern and well balanced copyright regime. The government should resist pressures to undermine this at the cost of our creative industries. Any new trade deals signed post Brexit must respect and promote the UK copyright framework.

0% VAT on E-books

VAT on books is a tax on reading and a tax on knowledge, a principle that has been acknowledged with 0% VAT on printed books: this should extend to e-books. The previous barrier to removing VAT on e-books has been removed so this opportunity should be taken now.

Scale of the issue

Throughout our history, the UK has benefited from the writers that shape our culture. Continuing our tradition of rich creativity is central to establishing our cultural and economic future as a nation. Our creators are more important than ever and we must ensure they are fairly rewarded for their contribution to our society.

Despite the continued growth of the creative industries, now valued at **£92bn**, studies have suggested that writers' earnings have fallen by **42%** in real terms since 2005. We need to ensure we preserve the writer's right to be fairly remunerated for the use of their works.

Professional writers' earnings

(Professional writers — people who dedicate over half their time to writing.)

2005

£12,330

2017 real terms equivalent — £18,013

2013

£11,000

2017 real terms equivalent — £12,309

2017

£10,500

With thanks to the All Party Writers Group Members who have led the inquiry:

- Rt Hon. John Whittingdale MP OBE (Chair)
- The Earl of Clancarty
- Julie Elliott MP
- Giles Watling MP
- Pete Wishart MP

+44 (0)20 7264 5700
allpartywritersgroup.co.uk