



23 October 2023

Dear Colleague,

**PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT RATE PER LOAN FOR PAYMENTS IN RELATION TO THE SCHEME YEAR 2022/23**

I am writing to seek your views and the views of those you represent on the above matter.

As you know the Public Lending Right (PLR) is a right for authors and other rights holders to receive payments from a central fund in relation to public lending of their books in the UK. For the PLR Scheme year 2022/23 the PLR applied to the lending of books, audiobooks, e-books and e-audiobooks, as well as the remote lending of e-books and e-audiobooks from public library services.

The British Library Board makes an annual recommendation to the Secretary of State for a change to the rate per loan to be paid from the PLR fund to registered authors, illustrators and other contributors to compensate them for the loan of their books from public libraries. This is calculated by dividing the available funding by the estimated number of loans of PLR-registered books. The British Library reaches this estimated figure by collecting actual borrowing figures from a sample of library authorities and then grossing up using data collected by CIPFA, together with requesting loans data directly from those library authorities not providing data to CIPFA.

The British Library Board has proposed a rate per loan of 13.69 pence for payments in relation to the 2022/23 PLR Scheme year. This represents a decrease of 16.84 pence - from 30.53 pence to 13.69 pence - from the rate per loan for 2021/22 payments. This proposed reduction reflects an increase in the estimated number of loans of books which have been registered for PLR. The main reason for the reduction in the rate per loan is the increase in the number of qualifying book loans over the previous PLR Scheme year. Book loans in the two preceding PLR Scheme years were affected by restrictions in place due to COVID, with library users having limited physical access to library buildings. With the restrictions no longer in place, the borrowing of books has been returning to near pre-covid levels and consequently led to a reduction in the annual rate per loan. This reduction is likely to have a minimal impact on the overall distribution of earnings, with payments between the different bands closely matching previous years.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport notes this recommendation and proposes to vary the PLR Scheme accordingly, and to bring the variation into force by statutory instrument.

Before any variation is made, the Department seeks your views on this specific proposal, by no later than 5.00pm on Friday 17 November 2023. Please send your response, by email, to the DCMS Libraries team, at: [rate\\_per\\_loan@dcms.gov.uk](mailto:rate_per_loan@dcms.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Sheila Bennett  
Head of Libraries Strategy and Delivery