

Independent Review of E-lending in Public Libraries – Terms of Reference

Ed Vaizey has asked William Sieghart, founder of Forward Publishing and the Forward Prize for Poetry, to lead a review of e-lending to help ensure that libraries and their users, authors and publishers can all benefit as this fledgling service grows.

The review will consider issues including the:

- benefits of e-lending;
- current nature and level of e-lending and projection of future demand;
- barriers to supply of e-books to libraries; and
- possible consequences of e-lending, including the long term impact on library premises, the effect on publishers and the impact on those who cannot keep up with changes in technology.

The principal objective of this review is to provide advice on how best to achieve an e-lending model in public libraries in England which will provide a strong modern offer to the public, whilst providing fair remuneration to publishers and authors and appropriate protections against copyright infringement.

The following will be considered as part of this review

1. The benefits of e-lending.
2. The current level and nature of demand for e-lending in English libraries, along with a projection of future demand. For example, will e-lending be in addition to traditional borrowing of print books, or is it likely to transform the way in which library users access services? What is the demand for downloading e-books remotely, that is, away from library premises? To what extent do owners of e-readers value public e-lending above what is freely or commercially available elsewhere?
3. Current supply models, barriers to the supply of e-books to libraries, and likely future trends.
4. Systems for remunerating authors / publishers for e-lending.
5. The impact of e-lending on publishers and their business models.
6. Any unforeseen consequences of e-lending. For example, the impact on those who cannot keep up with technology, the likely long-term impact on the model of highly localised physical library premises, skills requirements for librarians, etc.

The following assumptions and points underpin this review:

- The review is intended to cover e-lending in public libraries in England. However, given that the Public Lending Right and Digital Economy Act 2010 are UK-wide, it may be necessary for the purposes of this review to consider the systems in place in the devolved administrations and how these inter-relate.
- The Digital Economy Act provisions (which have not yet been brought into force) extend PLR to e-books and audio books; e-books are the growing trend, but audio books should be included.
- These Digital Economy Act provisions allow the lending of e-books (and audio-books) to be included within the public lending right scheme, but only where the e-book is downloaded within library premises. Any changes to this system to allow readers to download e-books online (for example, from home) would therefore require a legislative amendment.
- DCMS ministers will consider the proposals resulting from the Review alongside any recommendations which may emerge from Arts Council England's 'Envisioning the Libraries of the Future' Project, and potential recommendations from the Culture, Media and Sport Parliamentary Committee Inquiry on Library Closures.

Likely Indicative timescale

- October – call for evidence
- November - December – consideration by the Chair and Panel and drafting of report
- January - publication of the Review

Governance

The Chair of the Review is **William Sieghart**. He is supported by Panel members

Janene Cox (President of the Society of Chief Librarians (SCL) & Commissioner for Tourism & the Cultural County, Staffordshire County Council;

Roly Keating, Chief Executive The British Library;

Caroline Michel, Chief Executive Peters Fraser & Dunlop

Stephen Page, Chief Executive Faber & Faber; and

Joanna Trollope OBE, Author

Findings and recommendations of the Panel will be independent of Government.

Remuneration

The roles of Chair and Panel Members are unremunerated, but travel and subsistence expenses will be paid.

Support

DCMS will provide Secretariat support.

Biographies

- **William Sieghart** – Chair
Philanthropist, entrepreneur, publisher and the founder of the Forward Prizes for Poetry.
In 1986 William co-founded Forward Publishing, publishing magazines children's books and poetry books. He is the author of a best-selling book on golf, *The Swing Factory*. William also founded Big Arts Week and Street Smart, the initiative whereby diners give a percentage of their restaurant bill to the homeless. He was a member of Arts Council England 2000–2006, and was chair of its Lottery Panel. William is a Trustee of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Free Word Centre and Reprieve.
- **Janene Cox** - President of the Society of Chief Librarians (SCL) & Commissioner for Tourism & the Cultural County, Staffordshire County Council.
Janene Cox began professional life as a librarian in the Central Library in Birmingham and has managed libraries in Northamptonshire and Staffordshire, where she became Head of Libraries in 2005. Janene is also a Trustee of the Reading Agency.
- **Roly Keating** - Chief Executive The British Library.
Before joining the British Library, Roly worked at the BBC, most recently as the Director of Archive Content with editorial leadership for the BBC's online services, including BBC iPlayer. He is also responsible for the development and implementation of the BBC's strategy to increase digital access to its archives, including the new Arts Council England partnership *The Space*. Roly's former positions at the BBC include Controller of BBC Two and BBC Four. Roly Keating is a member of the Barbican Centre Board, and a Trustee of Turner Contemporary.

- **Caroline Michel** - Chief Executive Peters Fraser & Dunlop
Caroline Michel has been the CEO of PFD since 2007 and before that she headed up the William Morris Agency in London for three years. She has over 25 years of experience in the media industry and ran Vintage at Random House and Harper Press at Harper Collins. Until very recently she was a governor at the BFI and now sits on its development board.
- **Stephen Page** - Chief Executive Faber & Faber
Stephen Page began his career in bookselling before moving into publishing. In 1994 he joined Fourth Estate, becoming Managing Director in 2000. In 2001 he joined Faber as CEO and in 2006 Faber was named Publisher of the Year. He has been President of the Publishers' Association. He frequently writes and speaks on industry issues, especially the effects of fast-moving technological developments on authors and publishing.
- **Joanna Trollope OBE** - Author
Novelist Joanna Trollope worked for the Foreign Office (1965-7) and held various teaching posts (1967-79), before becoming a full-time writer. She is the author of 30 bestselling contemporary novels, and was awarded the Romantic Novelists Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010.