478. N Earls

Dear Commissioners,

As an author, I am a creator of intellectual property. My income is derived from licensing use of this property to publishers, film and theatre producers, game developers and others, as well as from talks I am paid to do as the property’s creator and fees I receive through the Copyright Agency if my work is copied.

A drug company can only invest time and money into the development of new drugs and vaccines because it knows it will have the exclusive right to exploit the intellectual property in any new product it develops. Similarly, though on a much smaller scale, I invest my time into creating my work, and it is only through legitimately exploiting it financially that I have the time to create more.

The current system for managing statutory licences works efficiently and well, and repealing it would cost me income to which I am legitimately entitled and present me with an unmanageable administrative and legal burden, should I choose to police copying of my work.

I urge you to cease recommending the replacement of the current system with voluntary licensing.

Nick Earls
25 July 2013