



**Authors'  
Licensing and  
Collecting  
Society**

Baroness Morgan of Cotes  
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport  
100 Parliament St,  
Westminster,  
London  
SW1A 2BQ

27 January 2020

Dear Baroness Morgan

The new rules contained in the EU Copyright Directive establish a framework for a fairer balance in the online world between authors and those that benefit commercially from the exploitation of their creative output. We particularly welcome the provision set out in chapter 3 of the Directive which establishes the fundamental principle that authors should receive a proportionate share of the revenue being generated by their works. This measure is supported by further rules requiring greater transparency and fairness in author contracts.

At a time when the UK creative industries are growing to unprecedented levels, we are also seeing a persistent decline in the earnings of professional authors, representing a real terms decrease of 42% since 2005. Chapter 3 of the Directive includes the necessary means to redress this imbalance by placing a fairer value on creativity.

In October 2019 in a letter to the Digital, Culture, Media & Sport select committee you reiterated your stance that the Government supported the EU Copyright Directive. The letter also stated that you recognised that the directive would “help creators to be more fairly rewarded for the use of their works online”. Then at DCMS questions in the House of Commons on 16 January 2020 your Minister Nigel Adams MP said “I agree that it contains many protections for our creative sector”.

It was therefore very concerning for ALCS and the over 100,000 members that we represent when your fellow Minister Chris Skidmore MP made it clear that the Government had no plans to implement the Directive. We would like to request an urgent meeting to discuss the new approach taken by the Government and to try and allay the fears that many creators now have.

Yours sincerely

**Barbara Hayes**  
**Deputy Chief Executive**

I Fifth Floor  
Shackleton House  
4 Battle Bridge Lane  
London  
SE1 2HX

✓ +44 (0)20 7264 5700  
alcs@alcs.co.uk

alcs.co.uk

