

Response to 2014 copyright changes: post-implementation reviews Call for Evidence by the National Museum Directors' Council (NMDC)

This response is submitted on behalf of the National Museum Directors' Council (NMDC). The NMDC represents the leaders of the UK's national collections and major regional museums. Our members are the national and major regional museums in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the British Library, the National Library of Scotland, and the National Archives. While our members are funded by government, the NMDC is an independent, non-governmental organisation. For more information on our activity and a full list of members see our website: www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

Summary

The statutory instruments passed to amend copyright law in 2014 have been greatly valued by NMDC's members. Copyright practitioners within the sector thank the reforms for shifting the perception of copyright within organisations from a potential risk to an enabler for innovation. The subsequent growth in confidence across the sector has allowed institutions to make use of the exceptions in order to fulfil their public task.

As a result of the exceptions, NMDC'S members can efficiently preserve copyrighted material within their collections for the nation whilst significantly reducing the resource required to do so. The public has wider access to the collections of their national institutions as the exceptions have enabled the digitisation of items, such as orphan works, which would not have been possible under previous legislation. National museums and major regional museums are better able to satisfy their role as centres for research and learning as access to copyrighted works can be given to researchers, educators and students. The exceptions allow a greater level of public engagement with national collections whilst affording institutions greater ease conserving the copyrighted materials they hold.

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