

Digital Economy Bill

Oppose Orphan Works Now

What is an Orphan?

- An image whose creator or rights owner cannot be easily identified
- Metadata is missing
- No copyright watermark
- No attribution in the newspaper, magazine or website
- At present, using an image without permission is treated as copyright infringement

What are the changes proposed?

- The government is pushing legislation that will allow the finder of an image the right to use it
- A collective licensing body will collect fees from the finder.
- If the owner claims for use, the fee will be paid – less an administrative charge
- If the owner does not claim, the fee goes to the government

What is wrong with this?

- Anyone can create their own orphan....and then license legitimate use from HMG
- There is no compulsion for legitimate users to identify the creator
- It allows images to be misused or misrepresented – the creator loses control over their work
- The fee goes to the government!
- Copyright protection will no longer be an indelible right of the creator

Anything else?

Plenty.....

- The search require before declaring “orphan” is undefined
- There is nothing in the Bill to block the creation of orphan works
- The license fee goes to the government...
- Fees are undefined and yet to be set.....

- Find a car in your street...remove the number plate and drive away without penalty, as long as HMG has been paid....

What can you do?

- Write to your MP and raise objections
- There is a template letter at:-

<http://copyrightaction.com/digital-economy-bill-mp-letter-template>

- To find your MP, use They Work For You

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/>

- Urgent action is needed – this Bill will be voted on in March