

Media Briefing Note

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Government's Refusal to Extend Copyright Terms Not Based on Concrete Evidence

The Stockholm Network report '**A Statistical Analysis of the Gower's Review**', part of its '**Expert's Series on Intellectual Property and Competition**', suggests that the recommendations made in the Gowers Review were not based on concrete economic evidence.

The report's conclusion, which the government used to justify its recent refusal to extend copyright terms on recorded sound, was said to have been made on the basis that extending term lengths could harm Britain's trade balance and provide little practical benefit to artists while hampering creativity and consume

However the Stockholm Network report finds that a meagre 6.7% of submissions provided significant statistical data.

Conclusion:

The findings of the report raise some serious concerns over whether the decision not to extend the copyright term is actually economically beneficial to the UK economy. A failure to extend copyright could threaten the UK's strong position in creating music and overlooks the contribution of musicians and performers have made to developing one of Britain's most successful industries. In other creative fields the copyright term is more generous and other countries, including the US, benefit from longer terms.

- For an executive summary of the Stockholm Network report please go to:
<http://www.stockholm-network.org/downloads/publications/d41d8cd9-Gowers%20executive%20summary.%2025.07.07.pdf>

- For a the complete report go to:

<http://www.stockholm-network.org/downloads/publications/d41d8cd9-Statistical%20Analysis%20write-up%20Version%203%20HD.pdf>

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