

Dr Steve Crocker
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Mr Fadi Chehade
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Dear Mr Crocker and Mr Chehade,

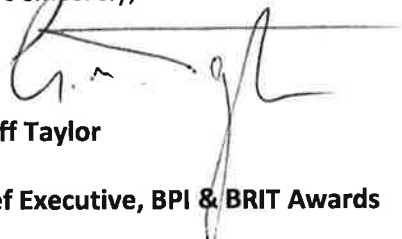
BPI (British Recorded Music Industry) Ltd. is the representative voice for the recorded music industry. Our membership comprises around 300 independent record labels and the three major record labels – Universal Music, Sony Music and Warner Music. Together, these account for more than 85 per cent of the sound recordings sold in the UK every year.

We have a significant interest in ensuring that the digital market is a platform for legal services, using licenced content to compete for consumers through innovative offerings that serve every kind of consumer taste. The market in the UK is very dynamic, with more legal digital music services than any country in the world, but like other countries, the biggest problem we face is the wealth of illegal content offered easily online.

The music industry has engaged with ICANN over what protections the TLDs can give to copyright and rights holders, and to ensure there is co-operation over tackling piracy from all legacy gTLDs. The new gTLD offers an opportunity to ensure that the .music domain, which will be able to specifically target, can be a “safe environment” for consumers – one where the consumer can be confident that services using that gTLD are legal, have the relevant licenses in place and are protected, as far as possible, against illegal activity. We hope that ICANN can help ensure the applicants are able to deliver this.

BPI would like to add to the representations from our equivalent body in the US, the RIAA, in lending our support to applicants for the .music gTLD that have meaningful safeguards to protect against online copyright infringement. From the applicants’ PIC specifications, we believe that DotMusic Limited has made commitments to such safeguards for their community application and we would like to add BPI’s support to that application.

Yours sincerely,



Geoff Taylor

Chief Executive, BPI & BRIT Awards