

PLR NEWS

Welcome to the Second Edition of PLR News

The Newsletter aims to bring you a digest of recent and forthcoming PLR developments, facts and figures about the Scheme, and details of the current (February 2003) payment round. We hope you will find it both interesting and informative.

February 2003 payments

With our increased government funding we will be distributing a record **£6.2 million** this year at a Rate Per Loan of **4.21** pence (up from last year's rate of **2.67** pence). **19,064** authors (some **1,500** more than last year) will receive a payment. More details on back page.

**RATE PER LOAN UP TO
4.21 PENCE**

Payments will be made during the week beginning Monday 3 February 2003.

Understanding your Payment Notification

Your Notification of Payment shows the estimated national loans calculated by the PLR computer for each of your books. It also gives the amount each has earned for the loans reported to PLR during the year 1 July 2001 - 30 June 2002. To see how and when you will receive any payment due to you, check the details on the **top right-hand corner** of the Notification.

Please remember: you only receive payment for books registered before 30 June 2002. Books you have registered since then will be included in **next year's** notification.

In most cases your payment will go directly into your bank account. To check you have been paid, look out for an entry

on your bank statement reading 'PLR', followed by your PLR number, eg **PLR032712**. If you think your payment has not reached your account, please check with your bank in the first instance. If there is still a problem, let us know here at PLR and we will be happy to look into it for you.

Please check that your name and bank/building society details appear correctly on your Notification, and advise us of any change before 31 January. Please remember to quote your PLR number.

How is your payment calculated?

The Rate Per Loan is worked out each year by dividing the total number of loans of registered books into the money available in the PLR Fund once PLR's running costs have been deducted. The calculation also takes account of money made available for redistribution as a result of the minimum (£5) and maximum (£6,000) payment thresholds.

So, if your books have been borrowed 50,000 times you will receive £2,105 (50,000 x 4.21 pence).

PLR under review

The quinquennial review of PLR, undertaken by our sponsor Department (DCMS) over the last year, has now reported to government ministers.

The report confirms the continuing importance of PLR for British authors, and recommends that the Scheme should continue to be managed by the Registrar and his team, supported by the PLR Advisory Committee. Other recommendations include support for the extension of PLR to reference books. The full text of the report will be available on publication from the PLR office, and will be accessible on PLR's website.

Focus on the PLR Advisory Committee

The Committee advises the Registrar and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the operation of the Scheme. The Committee is chaired by Clare Francis. Among the other members are writers Hilary Mantel,

Theresa Breslin and Maggie Gee. Literary agent Gill Coleridge joined the Committee during the year. Appointments are made by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Frequently asked questions

May I register books written by my late husband, wife or other family member published after their death?

First-time applications may only be made by living authors and cannot be made by a third party after the author's death. However, if your relative registered with PLR during their lifetime it is possible to register books posthumously in certain circumstances. For more information, please contact the Author Services team at the PLR office.

Why are some of my books missing from my annual Payment Notification?

The Notification document only shows titles which are eligible for the next payment round. Therefore only titles registered on or before 30 June will be listed. Any titles registered after this date will be shown on next year's Notification.

Dutch PLR payments for UK authors

Money owed to UK authors for loans of their works from Dutch libraries is expected by the end of February 2003. As with German PLR payments, Dutch payments will be distributed by the Authors' Licensing & Collecting Society (ALCS), so please register with ALCS if you have not done so already. (ALCS, Marlborough Court, 14-18 Holborn, London EC1N 2LE; tel: 020 7395 0600; e-mail: alcs@alcs.co.uk)

Spreading the word

PLR application forms now ask first-time authors how they heard about the Scheme. The following analysis compares feedback from this year and 1997.

| Source of information | 2002 | 1997 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Fellow authors/friends | 27% | 33% |
| Publishers | 23% | 21% |
| Authors' organisations (foreign) | 12% | --- |
| Agents | 8% | 6% |
| Authors' organisations (UK) | 8% | 7% |
| ISBN agency | 5% | 13% |
| University/college | 5% | --- |
| Internet | 3% | --- |
| Writers' Year Book | --- | 5% |
| Other | 9% | 15% |
| | 100% | 100% |

If you have ideas on how the Scheme could be publicised more widely among authors, please let us know.

PLR – A family affair

Writing can run in the family, and there are many examples of successful authors following in the footsteps of literary parents. But how many families can claim four members, all novelists, all sharing the same surname and all registered for PLR? Step forward the Rayners: parents, Claire and Desmond, and daughter and son, Amanda and Jay. Claire, well known agony aunt and TV broadcaster, has also written over 90 books (both fiction and non-fiction) since 1960 and these have been published in 22 countries; Desmond, an established painter and theatre production designer, published his first novel in 1984; Amanda, a photographer with her own events management agency, has had two novels published and has recently finished a third; and Jay, a journalist and broadcaster, has works of fiction and non-fiction to his name, including his recently published account of the loss of Star Dust, one of the earliest long-haul passenger planes. Great anticipation (and some rivalry) greet the arrival of the family's PLR payment notifications each January. Whose book has been borrowed most from libraries this year?

Are there other PLR families out there with as many (or more) members writing in the same genre? We'd like to hear.

Collecting Loans Data

To enable us to estimate how often your books have been borrowed nationally we collect loans data from a sample of 30 library authorities across the UK. To improve the payment chances of writers of books of local and regional interest we continue to rotate the sample (nine new authorities this year) and to extend its range (479 branches, compared with 371 last year). We also increased the size of the sample from 41 to 52 million loans this year. The following authorities participated during 2001-02:

Wales

Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Flintshire

Scotland

Dundee, South Lanarkshire, West Lothian

Northern Ireland

Belfast, North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB)

Counties

South East Bedfordshire/Luton, Essex, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire, Surrey

South West Devon, Somerset, Southampton, Warwickshire

Northern Durham, Lancashire, Stockton-on-Tees

Metropolitan Boroughs

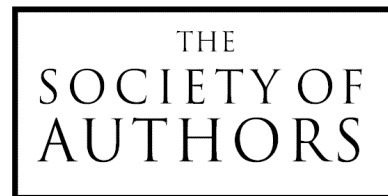
Bradford, Leeds, Sheffield, Stockport, Wakefield

London

Bromley, Ealing, Kingston upon Thames, Southwark

Please remember ...

- Earnings of less than £5 cannot be paid out – but the Advisory Committee has asked ministers to approve a change to the Scheme enabling small sums to be carried forward into subsequent years and paid out when they clear the £5 threshold.
- You must register separately any new editions (eg paperback, large print) of hardback titles you have already registered with us as they will have different ISBNs. Please contact the PLR Office for an application form – or print one out from our website.
- The annual closing date for book registrations is 30 June. You must register any new ISBNs with us by this date if you want them to qualify for payment in the following February.
- If you live in the UK, Income Tax will not have been deducted from your PLR payment. You should declare your payment as income on your tax return.
- If you live abroad (and you don't have a UK bank account) you will be paid in Euros and tax will be deducted. To avoid tax deduction in future, you may be able to take advantage of the Double Taxation Agreement that the UK has in place with many foreign countries. Application forms are available from the Inland Revenue (tel: +44 (0) 151 210 2222).



Not yet a member? Here are some of the benefits of joining:

- clause-by-clause contract vetting
- advice on any professional issue or problem (including copyright, agents, publishers, film options)
- free copies of the extensive Quick Guide series (see website or phone for details of titles)
- quarterly journal, *The Author*, packed with useful advice, information and articles
- opportunities to meet other writers, as well as publishers and agents
- invitations to talks, seminars and regional meetings
- membership of specialist groups
- free ALCS membership
- listing and links on our website and online database
- special offers on home, travel and libel insurance
- up to 25% discount on books from OUP, Foyles and the Pan Bookshop

For further information please contact:

Emma Boniwell
84 Drayton Gardens, London, SW10 9SB
Tel: 020 7373 6642
Email: membership@societyofauthors.org

or visit www.societyofauthors.org

PLR Facts and Figures

| Payment Date | February 2003 | February 2002 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
|--------------|---------------|---------------|

Expenditure

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Government Funding | £7 million | £5.2 million |
| Payments to Authors | £6.2 million | £4.5 million |
| Running Costs | £817,000 ⁺ | £727,000 |
| Rate Per Loan | 4.21 pence | 2.67 pence |

Payment 'Bands'

| | <u>No of authors</u> | <u>No of authors</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| £5,000 - £6,000 | 320* | 169* |
| £2,500 - £4,999.99 | 340 | 272 |
| £1,000 - £2,499.99 | 759 | 584 |
| £500 - £999.99 | 894 | 750 |
| £100 - £499.99 | 3,952 | 3,400 |
| £5 - £99.99 | 12,799 | 12,406 |
| Total Recipients | 19,064 | 17,581 |

Book Loans Data

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total UK loans | 406 million | 430 million |
| Loans of registered books | 184 million | 193 million |

⁺ Higher costs this year due to purchase of IT equipment and transfer of PLR staff pensions to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme.

* Includes 251 authors this year and 130 in February 2002 whose payments were subject to the £6,000 maximum payment threshold.

Public Lending Right
Richard House, Sorbonne Close
STOCKTON-ON-TEES
TS17 6DA, UK

Tel: +44 (0)1642 604699
Fax: +44 (0)1642 615641
E-mail: authorservices@plr.uk.com



www.plr.uk.com
www.plrinternational.com

In accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 Public Lending Right confirms that the data that you provide in registering with this organisation will be used only for the purposes of administering any payments that may be due to you under the PLR system. Data will not be used for other purposes unless separate and specific consent has first been given by you.