

PLR NEWS

Welcome to the fourth edition of PLR News

The Newsletter aims to bring you a digest of recent and forthcoming PLR developments, facts about the Scheme and details of the February 2005 payments. We hope you find it interesting and informative, but please let us know if there is other information about the Scheme that you would like to see here.

**YOU CAN NOW REGISTER FOR PLR ON-LINE BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT
www.plr.uk.com**

February 2005 payments

We will be distributing **£6.55 million** this year at a Rate Per Loan of **5.26** pence (up from last year's rate of 4.85 pence). **18,686** authors will receive a payment, including **291** (274 last year) who will qualify for the maximum payment of £6,000. See the back page for more details.

**RATE PER LOAN RISES TO
5.26 PENCE**

Payments will be made during the week beginning Monday 7 February 2005.

Understanding your Statement

Your Statement shows the estimated national loans calculated by the PLR computer for each of your books. It also gives the amount each has earned for loans reported to PLR during the year 1 July 2003 - 30 June 2004. To see how and when you will receive any payment due to you, check the details on the **top right-hand corner** of your Statement.

Please remember: you only receive payment for books registered before 30 June 2004. Books you have registered since then will be included in **next year's** Statement.

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 **PLR052712**. 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 Statement, and advise us before 28 January of any change. Please remember to quote your PLR number.

How is your payment calculated?

The Rate Per Loan is worked out by dividing the figure for the total number of loans of books registered for PLR into the money available in the PLR Fund for payment to authors. This calculation also takes account of money freed 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 £2,630 (50,000 x 5.26 pence).

Are there some older books missing from your Statement?

Books without an ISBN haven't been eligible for PLR since 1991. However, any registered before this date have been allowed to remain on the PLR Register and to continue to be listed on Statements, even though they do not qualify for payment. Following a housekeeping exercise this year, we have removed most non-ISBN entries from the PLR Register. They will therefore no longer appear on your Statement. All that survive are a few created by the PLR office for administrative purposes.

Focus on the PLR Advisory Committee

The Committee exists to advise the Registrar and Ministers at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on PLR issues. Its recommendations can lead to changes to the Scheme. The Committee is currently chaired by author Simon Brett. Other Committee members are writers Tony Bradman, Maggie Gee and Barry Turner; literary agent Gill

Coleridge; Somerset County Librarian Rob Froud; and Miranda McKearney, Director of the Reading Agency.

If you have views on any aspect of the Scheme's operation and coverage that you would like the Committee to consider, please contact the Registrar who will be happy to pass them on to the Committee.

Frequently asked questions

I know that my book has been borrowed several times from my local library – why don't these loans appear on my Statement?

On grounds of cost PLR is unable to collect loans data from every library in the UK. Instead, loans data comes from a sample of libraries located across the country. However, to improve authors' chances of featuring in the library sample its composition is changed regularly, and we are gradually increasing the sample size and range as more sophisticated technology reduces the cost of data collection.

Why are some of my books missing from my annual Statement?

The Statement document only shows titles which are eligible for the February 2005 payment distribution. Therefore only titles registered on or before 30 June 2004 will be listed. Any titles registered after this date will be shown on next year's Statement.

International developments

There are now 21 countries with PLR schemes. Most are to be found in Europe, but PLR systems also exist in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Israel. PLR is not recognised in the United States. Among the most recent additions to the PLR family of nations are Estonia, Lithuania, Slovenia and France. The EU Lending Right Directive of 1992 requires member states to recognise authors' lending rights and over the last year the European Commission has been bringing pressure to bear on those countries that had taken no action. The UK Scheme has been open to any author living in an EU country since 2000. British authors qualify for the German and Dutch PLR schemes. Payments are distributed via the Authors' Licensing & Collecting Society (ALCS). For more information, please contact ALCS tel: 020 7395 0600 (www.alcs.co.uk).

Changes to the Scheme

Discussions with DCMS continue on changes to PLR's minimum (£5) and maximum (£6,000) payment thresholds. Any changes will require amendments to the PLR legislation. The Advisory Committee initially recommended the introduction of a carry-forward system to enable small payments to be held over from one year to the next and paid out when they reached the £5 threshold. This would have involved some complicated changes to PLR's systems. As payments can now be made simply and cheaply by electronic means, the Committee is recommending to Ministers a simple lowering of the threshold to its old level of £1. This would release payments to some 5,500 new authors and avoid the need to develop carry-forward systems. The Committee also felt it only fair that the maximum threshold (currently set at £6,000) be reviewed. It was last raised in 1989. The Committee is recommending a rise to £6,600. If Ministers agree with the proposals, it is hoped to have the changes in place for the February 2006 payments.

The PLR team

This year we focus on members of the Author Services team. Led by Carolyn Gray, the team has responsibility for author and book registrations, and collecting loans data from PLR's library sample. If you contact us with a registration query, you will be put through to Joanne Gayford (Registration Specialist), Janice Forbes (European Specialist) or Kelly Bowstead (Registration Officer). The team has been particularly busy this year as on-line registration continues to grow in popularity. Looking after our contacts with sample libraries and ensuring loans data gets to us accurately and on time are Sarah Beamson (Library Specialist) and Paul Atkinson (Library Officer). Here too the electronic revolution has had a big impact, with monthly consignments of loans data now being sent by sample libraries to the PLR office as e-attachments.

Collecting loans data

To enable us to estimate how often your books have been borrowed nationally we collect loans data from a sample of 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 (ten new library authorities this year) and to extend its range (856 branches, compared with 769 last year). The following 36 authorities participated during 2003-04:

Wales

Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Conwy, Pembrokeshire

Scotland

Dundee, Fife, Orkney, South Lanarkshire

Northern Ireland

All five Education and Library Boards

English Counties

South East Beds/Luton, Bucks/Milton Keynes, Herts, Kent, Northants,

South West Devon, Somerset, Southampton, Stoke on Trent

Northern Durham, Lancashire, Northumberland

Metropolitan Boroughs

Coventry, Leeds, North Tyneside, Stockport, The Wirral

London

Bexley, Brent, Harrow, Kingston upon Thames

Please remember ...

- Under the current Scheme earnings of less than £5 cannot be paid out. (See *Changes to the Scheme* opposite.)
- You must register separately any new editions (eg paperback, large print) of hardback titles you have already registered with us as the new editions will have different ISBNs.
- 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 the position with regard to deduction of tax depends on whether you live in a country that has a double tax treaty with the UK, or not. Further information is available from Inland Revenue Centre for Non-Residents tel: +44 (0)151 210 2222 (www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/cnr).

You can't judge a book by its cover

– but you can judge it by its index

You've put a bit of work into your book and it deserves the best possible index. The best way to achieve this is to hire a professional.

The Society of Indexers' directory of *Indexers Available* contains detailed entries on over 200 professional indexers, whose specialist subjects range from accountancy to zoology. Visit our website at www.indexers.org.uk and browse through the directory; it is possible to search for an indexer not only by subject, but also by type of material or medium. Alternatively, contact our office for a CD copy of *Indexers Available* at:

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PLR Facts and Figures

Payment Date	February 2004	February 2005
Expenditure		
Government Funding	£7.2 million	£7.38 million
Payments to Authors	£6.4 million	£6.55 million
Running Costs	£812,000	£812,000
Rate Per Loan	4.85 pence	5.26 pence
Payment 'Bands'		
	<u>No of authors</u>	<u>No of authors</u>
£5,000 - £6,000	354*	353*
£2,500 - £4,999.99	350	378
£1,000 - £2,499.99	767	785
£500 - £999.99	910	910
£100 - £499.99	3,875	3,830
£5 - £99.99	12,507	12,430
Total Recipients	18,763	18,686
Book Loans Data		
Total UK loans	377 million	361 million
Loans of registered books	169 million	158 million

* Includes 291 authors this year and 274 in February 2004 whose payments were subject to the £6,000 maximum payment threshold.



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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 and promoting the Scheme. Data will not be used for other purposes unless separate and specific consent has first been given by you.