

JANUARY 2009

Welcome to PLR News which explains your Statement and brings you the latest PLR developments.

This leaflet is available in Braille or large print on request. It is also available on our website www.plr.uk.com under Media Centre/Newsletters.

The Rate Per Loan remains at 5.98 pence and payments will be made to 23,773 authors.

2009 Distribution to be made between **6-16 February 2009**.

Development of new Irish PLR System – find out more inside.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STATEMENT**What does my Statement tell me?**

- total earnings for the PLR year 1 July 2007 - 30 June 2008
- estimated national loans and amount earned for each ISBN registered for PLR
- how and when I will receive payment
- the nominated bank/building society details to which my payment will be credited

How do I know when I've been paid?

The majority of UK authors are paid through the BACS system and their money is transferred directly to their bank or building society account. Please check your bank statement in February for a PLR entry – you will find the letters 'PLR', followed by your PLR number. If you are concerned that your money has not been credited, please check initially with your bank or building society. If it has not been received, please contact us immediately and we will look into it.

What do I do if the bank/building society details in my Statement are incorrect?

Let us know immediately. We have until 29 January 2009 to amend details before payments are processed.

Some of my books are missing from my Statement – what's happened to them?

You will only receive payment in February 2009 for books registered before 30 June 2008. Books registered since that date will be included in your 2010 Statement. Older books without ISBNs no longer qualify for PLR and therefore do not appear on your Statement.

How are payments calculated?

The PLR computer divides the total number of grossed-up loans of registered books into the funding available. This provides a Rate Per Loan. The calculation process takes account of money freed for redistribution by the operation of the minimum (£1) and maximum (£6,600) payment thresholds. For example, if your books have been borrowed 50,000 times, you will receive £2,990 (50,000 x 5.98 pence).

How is loans data collected?

We collect loans data from a representative sample of library authorities across the UK. We also rotate the sample to ensure that authors of books of local and regional interest have a periodic chance of receiving payment. In 2007-08 we brought in seven new library authorities and collected data from over 1,100 library branches. See the back page for more details.

What about my privacy and Data Protection?

In accordance with Data Protection legislation the personal information you provide when registering your books is only used for the purposes of administering the PLR Scheme. We will not use personal data provided by you for any other purpose without your consent.



Important Information about future Statements

In order to save on printing and postage costs, from this year authors will no longer receive a printed Statement if their loans do not take them over the minimum payment threshold of £1. However, you are still able to view your Statement online, regardless of whether you are due a payment or not.

Alternatively, we can arrange to post you a Statement if you specifically request one. Everyone who does qualify for a payment will still receive a Statement either in the post or via their online account.



PLR'S ONLINE REGISTRATION SYSTEM

The new version of the online registration service was launched last year. The service has been very well received and has lots of new features, including the ability to:

- View and update your address and bank details securely
- View and update details of your registered books, including percentage shares
- Enter the ISBN and press 'Find' to retrieve book details instead of manually entering the information
- Reset your password and memorable questions yourself
- Add an extra edition quickly without having to retype the details
- Send and receive secure messages
- View your annual Statement online, sort the data in different ways and print if required

If you would like to use the online service, please visit our website www.plr.uk.com and click on 'apply for an online account' and follow the instructions.

A FEW REMINDERS

Please check that your name and bank/building society details appear correctly on your Statement, and advise us before 29 January of any change. Remember to quote your PLR number.

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.

Please advise us of any change to your email address as this is used to send quarterly newsletters and to remind you of the 30 June registration deadline.

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 HM Revenue & Customs Centre for Non-Residents (tel: +44 (0) 151 210 2222). Information and forms are also available at www.hmrc.gov.uk/cnr.

DEALING WITH YOUR QUERIES

To meet our running cost targets this year we have had to reduce staffing levels. For most of the year we should be able to maintain our present high levels of service; however, please bear in mind that January is our busiest time of year when we deal with large numbers of telephone and email enquires about the payment statements. It may therefore take us a little longer than usual to respond to queries and answer telephone calls. Our website www.plr.uk.com contains useful information, in particular our FAQ page. You may find it helpful to refer to this first if you have a query of a general nature.

THE SCHEME IN OPERATION - Registrar, Jim Parker, gives an overview

Under PLR's three-year funding settlement from government for the period 2008/09 – 2010/11 our funding has been set for the current year at £7.4 million, to be increased in 2009/10 to £7.5 million and returning to its 2006/07 level of £7.6 million in 2009/10. We have been set challenging running cost targets for each of these years to ensure that as much as possible of our funding is available for payment to authors. This year we expect to achieve our running cost target. This will enable us to maintain the Rate Per Loan at last year's level of 5.98 pence.

New Management Board

The PLR Advisory Committee, first set up in 1982 to advise the Registrar and government Ministers on the drafting and subsequent running of the PLR Scheme, is to be replaced by a smaller Board appointed by the Registrar to advise him on the operation and future development of PLR. The Board will consist of an author, a librarian, a publishing specialist and someone with experience of managing a government-funded body. The new Board will work with the Registrar in assessing the potential impact of developments like ebooks on PLR and public libraries. The Board will also be keen to hear from authors with views on the Scheme and its administration by the PLR office. Any views may be communicated to the Registrar (jim.parker@plr.uk.com) for passing on to the Committee.

An Irish PLR system

Irish PLR legislation is now in place and the government has given responsibility for administering PLR to The Library Council there. The legislation makes provision for a system modelled on the UK approach. We have begun the task of helping The Library Council develop software based on ours to run their new system. The aim is to have the system fully up and running by the end of 2009. The eligibility criteria for authors and books under the new Irish PLR system are likely to be very similar to those that we operate in the UK so most, if not all, authors who are registered with us should qualify for Irish PLR. See the separate form enclosed with your Statement for further information about the transfer of authors' details from the UK to the Irish system. PLEASE NOTE - if you are viewing your Statement online, further information about transferring details will be provided later this year.

PLR's 30th Anniversary

22 March 2009 marks the 30th anniversary of the passing of the PLR Act which came after many years of campaigning by authors for the right to receive a payment for the free lending out of their books by public libraries. The basic principle of PLR has not changed since then though the Scheme has extended its reach considerably at home and internationally. Here, the Scheme's remit has been expanded beyond writers to include payments to others who contribute to a book's content: illustrators, translators, editors and photographers. Technological advances have enabled PLR's national loans data sample to be increased to 23% of total UK public library loans. But PLR remains restricted by the Act to loans of printed books and the new Board will be cooperating with other organisations representing authors and libraries to provide the government with proposals for modernisation of the Scheme during our 30th anniversary year.

International Developments

Some 28 countries now have PLR systems. Most of these are in Europe and are responding to the obligation placed on them by an EU Directive to set up PLR systems. Four countries – Germany, Austria, the Netherlands and France – now make PLR payments to UK authors via the Authors Licensing & Collecting Society (ALCS), and negotiations are in hand with other countries such as Belgium and Italy.

PLR FACTS AND FIGURES

Payment Date	February 2008	February 2009
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Expenditure

Government Funding	£7.63 million	7.43 million
Payments to Authors	£6.66 million	6.63 million
Running Costs	£828,000	£803,000
Rate Per Loan	5.98 pence	5.98 pence

Payment 'Bands'

	<u>No of authors</u>	<u>No of authors</u>
£5,000 - £6,600	359 *	352 *
£2,500 - £4,999.99	375	379
£1,000 - £2,499.99	797	784
£500 - £999.99	897	932
£100 - £499.99	3,591	3,507
£1 - £99.99	17,921	17,819
Total Recipients	23,940	23,773
Nil or below minimum threshold	11,109	12,158

Book Loans Data

Total UK loans	323 million	315 million
Loans of registered books	136 million	134 million

* Includes 232 authors this year and 242 in February 2008 whose payments were subject to the maximum payment threshold.

The following library authorities participated in the PLR sample during 2007-08

East - Essex/Southend/Thurrock, Cambridgeshire

East Midlands - Derby/Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Nottingham/Nottinghamshire

London - City of London, Lambeth, Redbridge/Havering/Wandsworth, Tower Hamlets

North East - Darlington, Newcastle

North West and Merseyside - Bolton, St Helens, Wigan

South East - Hampshire, Oxfordshire, West Sussex, Windsor & Maidenhead

South West - Gloucestershire, Wiltshire

West Midlands - Dudley, Worcestershire

Yorkshire & The Humber - York

Scotland - Argyll & Bute, East Lothian, Edinburgh, Moray

Wales - Neath Port Talbot, Powys, Swansea

Northern Ireland - (All Authorities)

Belfast Education & Library Board, North Eastern Education & Library Board, South Eastern Education & Library Board, Southern Education & Library Board, Western Education & Library Board