

Please send responses to: onlinecopyrightinfringement@ofcom.org.uk
Deadline: 30th July 2010

30/7/10

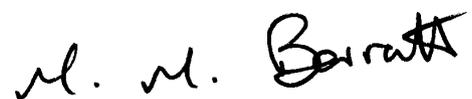
Dear Sirs

Regarding Ofcom Document “Online Infringement of Copyright and the Digital Economy Act: Draft Initial Obligations Code”

The London Libraries Consortium is a consortium of 12 public library authorities in London, representing a third of London. Members are currently Barking & Dagenham, Brent, Ealing, Enfield, Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth. An increasing number of our libraries are offering wifi access to library users, as a supplement to the existing People’s Network of internet-enabled PCs in libraries.

Libraries play an important role in breaking down the digital divide, hence the push for the People’s Network of PCs. We believe that libraries should not be put in the position of being considered an ISP or other position where we might find ourselves liable for litigation. We will face either wholesale withdrawal of the public internet service as local authorities simply will not risk being sued, or the service will be so restricted that no one will use it. In terms of the digital exclusion agenda and the Martha Lane Fox Race Online 2012 initiative, draft code of practice is completely at odds with the position that libraries are able to bridge the divide between the digitally included and excluded. We have already seen some Local Authorities refusing to CRB check some staff due to the vagueness of the latest guidelines and the perceived risk of being taken to court.

Yours sincerely



Madeline Barratt, Libraries Strategy & Performance Manager, Enfield Libraries
on behalf of London Libraries Consortium members in: Barking & Dagenham, Brent,
Ealing, Enfield, Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond, Tower Hamlets,
Waltham Forest, Wandsworth