

The Pirate Party's position on copyright is actually the most reasonable and sensible. While I recognise the rightsholders' need for remuneration, putting the nation under surveillance and treating us all like potential criminals will lead to widespread resentment and a loss of confidence that the Government is working in the best interests of the public. Indeed it is widely perceived that the Government is working in the best interests of Hollywood lobbyists.

Addressing the market is the correct approach, and this means breaking up the vertically-integrated distribution monopolies of the content industries. End their ability to distort and control the market by refusing to fight their battles for them and they'll be forced to adapt to the digital age and provide services to consumers that are superior to those that are currently illegal.

New business models that include streaming via Youtube or other video sharing websites that are ad-supported with an ad-free subscription service will net them a great deal of revenue from those of us who want to pay for their content but are prevented by geographical restrictions.

There is a lot of money to be made online by teaming up with providers of streaming and torrenting services and using the likes of the now defunct MegaUpload as a service provider. The service MegaUpload provided met the market demand and had the MPAA and RIAA and their associates engaged in a profit-sharing deal instead of shutting it down under dubious circumstances, they would have earned a great deal more revenue than they have by getting rid of it.

The legal services that are available are hamstrung by the content industries, which are trying to put them out of business by charging ridiculous license fees in order to protect their failing business models. Refusing to fight their battles for them would force them to deal more fairly with the legal services and provide the public with more of a choice.

The content industries' stance is actually driven more by a desire for control than for money. I've also identified an alarming trend in the Government to take them at their word instead of demanding evidence. The result of this is ham-fisted seizures that provoke public disdain for the law enforcement agencies.

What we need is a new approach to intellectual property that stops people seeing copyright in proprietary terms. Copyright is an investment interest for which it is reasonable to seek remuneration by addressing the market instead of attempting to control and lock it down.

As it is I don't go to the cinema any more because I refuse to support the greed of these lobbyists and the fact that though they are wealthy, they're demanding that the UK Government expend our tax monies on protecting their profits to the detriment of the public purse. While I appreciate that you're seeking our input on this, the trouble is not filesharing or even filesharing on a commercial scale (which it is reasonable to punish), it's that the Government is supporting distribution monopolies to the point where it is willing to cut the benefits of the old, the sick, and the poor to pay for enforcing them.

Please get to work on meaningful copyright reform to put an end to this nonsense. Hargreaves does not go far enough.