

I find it horrifying to see that our laws are now being controlled by rich organisations, not only is a £20 fee violating the basic principal of being innocent until proven guilty but Ofcom and the government have once again misunderstood and been ignorant about internet piracy.

Firstly the reason most people pirate is not to save money, it is accessibility, it is the easiest route, the music industry should try the carrot rather than the stick. The on-line games retailer Steam makes a fortune and for a lot of people it is the first stop when looking for a game, piracy comes second. The music industry and large corporations in support of this have become lazy, they are no longer willing to make any attempt to improve access or user friendliness, they no longer earn the money they are after but rather expect the people paying to do all the leg work. simple message, make your product easily available and reasonably priced and people will buy it.

My second point focusses on artists, the people who create the copyrighted material, I have yet to find an example of any popular artist who isn't earning millions and is actually suffering struggling to scrape together enough money to buy food, the fact is the people on the internet would not let this happen, people support artists they like, take Jonathan Coulton for example, popular among a small niche market he accepts that people may torrent his music and simply asks that if you like it please make a donation, as well as making his music easily available. His fans are mostly geeks and nerds (myself included), people who know how to pirate music and yet he still makes a comfortable living because fans give him that money regardless. What people don't like are the fat cats who act as middlemen profiting on other peoples creations and ripping off the customer.

Finally I would like to take note of the impracticality of the scheme, the fact is due to wireless internet IP locations become unreliable, wifi networks will be hacked novice users of wifi won't know how to prevent this and will end up being charged for something they didn't do and they will have no evidence to defend themselves, and also no concrete evidence to prosecute them. This scheme will also never catch any half intelligent torrent user who knows basic encryption or has a proxy server or two. It would be much cheaper to send some of your representatives on a crash course on what the internet is and how its used, get the music industry to work with the people online and stop trying to push through laws which violate the basic principals of the legal system.

On a seperate note, I see my browser has had to stop this site from setting cookies, you made no indication that this site made use of cookies which I believe under new misguided government legislation is now illegal. I suggest you make the required changes before you are reported for this offence. (see what happens when stupid laws are introduced, get people who know the internet to make your policies, not corporate fools and moneylenders.)