

Name

Cathal Gahan

Of the six categories into which the Paper classified the first round of submissions, which one (if any) best describes you?

User

Is the classification of the submissions into six categories – (i) rights-holders; (ii) collection societies; (iii) intermediaries; (iv) users; (v) entrepreneurs; and (vi) heritage institutions – appropriate?

I believe that the first group should be further divided into artists and publishers. The goals of these two groups frequently conflict, with the latter usually preferring more strict copyright law than the former. In addition, such a distinction would make it easier to ensure that Irish copyright law can protect artists from unscrupulous publishers.

Should a Copyright Council of Ireland (Council) be established?**Should its subscribing membership be rights-holders and collecting societies; or should it be more broadly-based, extending to the full Irish copyright community?**

A membership of rights-holders and collecting societies would appear to be biased towards stricter laws (assuming that the rights-holders are publishers, rather than artists). With the importance of the Internet in copyright issues, such a council should include experts on this area to ensure that proposed actions are technically feasible (restrictions on copying written by those without knowledge of computer architecture have been known to be so broad as to outlaw all electronics). HEAnet could be an appropriate choice for this. In addition, intermediaries should be strongly represented, as the most frequent targets of action.