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connections knowledge influence*

29 June 2012

Copyright Review Committee  
Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

### **ICT Ireland & ISA Submission to the Copyright Review Committee**

Dear Chair,

ICT Ireland and the Irish Software Association (ISA), the IBEC groups representing the technology sector, welcome the opportunity to deliver this submission to the Copyright Review Committee.

The technology sector in Ireland is a thriving and growing industry. All of the top 10 global technology companies have a significant presence here. The economic contribution of the sector is substantial, with the technology industry currently responsible for over 25% of Ireland's total turnover, representing one third of Ireland's exports by value. Five of the top 10 exporters are technology companies.

The sector employs more than 84,000 people in a wide range of services and manufacturing sub-sectors, from the largest multinational corporations to indigenous technology start-ups. Employment growth continues at pace. In 2011, 4,000 new jobs were announced and already in 2012, over 4,250 new jobs have been created.

Ireland's technology sector will continue to play a major role in our economic recovery and we possess compelling competitive advantages, from tax structures to high-level skills, which encourage companies to locate and grow. However, Ireland is competing with a number of international jurisdictions for tech sector development. We must ensure that new competitive advantages are created that work in sync with Ireland's current offerings.

The approach to copyright reform can be used to develop a new competitive advantage for attracting companies of all sizes to locate and grow in Ireland. In addition, reform which reflects the competitive needs of those technology companies already based here, will encourage further investment and enhance Ireland's reputation as a location conducive to innovation and business growth.

IRISH BUSINESS AND EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION

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Copyright law must fully support innovation (particular through promulgated exceptions), creativity, competition and the public interest. ICT Ireland and the ISA believe it essential that the Irish copyright regime evolves to provide the level of flexibility, confidence and legal certainty needed for the emerging digital technology industries to flourish and drive economic growth.

Ireland has gained significantly from the technology revolution. In order to remain attractive to foreign direct investment and to encourage indigenous technology sector growth, we must lead the charge in maximising the economic potential of the technology sector. Appropriate copyright reform, delivered as a new competitive advantage, is a critical factor in this growth.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Sweetman', written over a horizontal line.

Paul Sweetman

Director, ICT Ireland & the ISA, IBEC