

CPO Application and Hearing
Information about collective legal claims
brought against Performing Right Society Limited and PRS
for Music Limited on behalf of writer members

This is a legal notice that has been issued at the direction of the Competition Appeal Tribunal. For further details, please visit www.catribunal.org.uk

- The Competition Appeal Tribunal (“Tribunal”) has received an application for a collective proceedings order (“CPO”) in relation to an alleged infringement of competition law by the Performing Right Society Limited and PRS for Music Limited (together “PRS”).
- The claim was launched on 28 February 2024 by Mr David Rowntree (the “Proposed Class Representative”) on behalf of PRS writer members between 9 March 2017 to 28 February 2024 (the “Proposed Class”). The Proposed Class Representative alleges that the Proposed Class have not received all of the Black Box royalties to which they are entitled as PRS’s Black Box distribution methods transfer a material portion of Black Box royalties that belong to writers to its publisher members in breach of competition law.
- The Proposed Class Representative claims that PRS has violated UK and EU competition law through its Black Box distribution policies. The claim alleges that the majority of Black Box royalties belong to writer members and that PRS’s distribution policies favour publisher members and mean that Black Box royalties owed to writers are paid to publishers. The claim alleges that PRS, therefore, transfers, or permits to be transferred, writer royalties to publishers.
- The proposed collective claim is a ‘stand-alone’ case meaning that there is no pre-existing decision of a regulatory body.
- Further details can be found on the Tribunal’s website and the dedicated Claims Website www.PRSongwriterclaim.co.uk.

Hearing of the CPO Application

- The hearing has been set for 12-14 February and 17 February 2025 to determine whether the proposed collective claim can proceed. The hearing will take place at the Competition Appeal Tribunal, Salisbury Square House, 8 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8AP.