



**NLA MEDIA ACCESS LIMITED**

**ANNUAL TRANSPARENCY REPORT**

**FINANCIAL YEAR – 2023**

## **NLA MEDIA ACCESS ANNUAL TRANSPARENCY REPORT for the financial year 2023**

This 'Annual Transparency Report' is produced in compliance with the provisions of the '[Collective Management of Copyright \(EU Directive\) Regulations 2016](#)' (reference regulation 21).

### **NLA Overview**

NLA Media Access Limited ('NLA') represents: publishers of printed newspapers and magazines and their associated websites; newsfeed material as used by the media monitoring organisations; independent websites offering news and current affairs content. NLA licenses the copying of publishers' content by media monitoring organisations ('MMOs') and end user organisations. Publishers can elect which rights they mandate NLA to manage, and the rights granted dictate which of the NLA licences their content is included in. Details of the licences offered to MMOs can be found [here](#) and end user organisations [here](#).

NLA additionally processes content from the major publications it represents and holds the articles in a database (known as '[eClips](#)'), which enables it to supply data efficiently to media monitoring agencies for their services to their clients

Please see [www.nlamediaaccess.com](http://www.nlamediaaccess.com) for further information on NLA.

### **Transparency Report Information**

**a. Financial statements**

A copy of NLA's Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2023 can be found [here](#).

**b. Report on NLA activities**

Please see NLA's Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2023 which can be found [here](#).

**c. Refusals to grant licences**

NLA Mandates set out the specific rights that are granted to NLA by its publishers. There were no instances of NLA refusing to grant a licence where NLA has the necessary rights from its publishers and offers a licence.

**d. Legal and governance structure**

NLA is a private limited company limited by shares (company no. 03003569), owned by 7 national newspaper groups (Associated Newspapers Limited, The Financial Times Limited, Guardian News and Media Limited, Independent Digital News & Media Limited, MGL 2 Limited, News Corp UK & Ireland Limited, Telegraph Media Group Limited).

NLA's supervisory body is its board of directors which include a representative from each of its shareholders and representatives for regional newspaper publishers, magazine publishers and special contributors. Details of NLA's Directors can be found within its Report and Financial Statements and on our website [here](#). Board Meetings are held at least once per quarter.

A copy of NLA Membership rules can be found [here](#) and its Articles of Association [here](#) which include information as to the form of the NLA Board and the right to representation.

e. **Entities directly or indirectly owned or controlled by NLA**

NLA wholly owns a dormant company 'The Newspaper Licensing Agency Limited' (company no. 03563061) (which has never traded and exists in order to preserve the former name of NLA).

f. **Remuneration paid to persons operating NLA's management and supervisory functions**

Please refer to notes 7 and 21 of NLA's Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2023.

g. **Amounts deducted for the purpose of social, cultural and educational services**

In 2023 NLA contributed £100,000 to the [Journalism Diversity Fund](#), the aims of which are to encourage and support people from ethnic and socially diverse backgrounds to train as journalists. The fund is administered by the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ).

h. **Rights revenue for each category of rights managed and type of use**

According to the CISAC categories, the works that NLA represents (newspapers, magazines, newsfeeds and news/current affairs websites) fall into the 'Literature' group.

NLA licenses rights to two main categories of user – media monitoring organisations (MMOs) and end user organisations. NLA MMO licences can be divided into print and web copying, and end user licences into print copying, web copying and the copying of content onto corporate websites. NLA additionally received revenues from overseas RROs.

An analysis of the revenues derived from each type of use is set out in Appendix A.

**h(i)(ii) Income from investment of rights revenue**

NLA's current practice is to report to, and pay, its right holders on a monthly basis (except for RROs where it reports annually). NLA does not hold any undistributable royalties. The only investment income it therefore earns is bank interest on money held on deposit pending distribution – in 2023, the interest earned was £74,676 which was retained by NLA as working capital.

i. **Cost of rights management and other services provided by NLA**

The financial information on costs is set out in Appendix B.

j. **Amounts due to rightholders**

As shown in Appendix B, during 2023 NLA attributed £53.2m licensing royalties to its right holders. After deduction of the NLA retention, £45m was distributed to right holders. Information as to NLA's distribution policy is set out in the ['NLA Royalties Charter'](#).

NLA makes monthly distributions of royalties and does not hold any unattributable sums.

k. **Relationships with other collective management organisations**

A breakdown of the available financial information regarding NLA relationships with other CMOs is set out in Appendix C.

NLA did not distribute any amounts directly to right holders of other CMOs.

## APPENDIX A

### Rights Revenue – 2023

#### NLA licensing revenue from Literature

<b>User type</b>	<b>Licence type</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
		<b>£'000</b>
End user	Business & Simplified licence	45,223
End user	Web end user licence	2,456
End user	Corporate Website Republishing Licence	1,367
Media Monitoring Organisations	Licence	2,525
	Web Database Licence	730
Reprographic Rights Organisations	Licence	904
<b>Total licensing revenue from Literature</b>		<b>53,205</b>

### **Appendix A - rights revenue in 2023**

#### NLA licensing revenue from Literature

<b>User type</b>	<b>Licence type</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
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## APPENDIX B

### Financial information on the costs of rights management – 2023

#### FINANCIAL INFORMATION ON THE COSTS OF RIGHTS MANAGEMENT

The Financial Statements for NLA Media Access Limited for the year ended 31 December 2023, including the Directors' Report, form a part of this Annual Transparency Report.

NLA Media Access Limited manages a single category of rights - under the classification of 'Literature' - that of newspapers and magazines.

	2023			2022		
	Rights management	Other services	Total	Rights management	Other services	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Licensing royalties	53,205		53,205	48,933		48,933
Database activities		4,881	4,881		4,728	4,728
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>53,205</b>	<b>4,881</b>	<b>58,086</b>	<b>48,933</b>	<b>4,728</b>	<b>53,661</b>
Bank deposit interest received	75		75	12		12
<b>Royalty payments to publishers</b>	<b>45,035</b>		<b>45,035</b>	<b>42,579</b>		<b>42,579</b>
<i>% of revenue</i>	<i>85%</i>		<i>78%</i>	<i>87%</i>		<i>79%</i>
Administration costs						
Staff	4,799	2,170	6,969	3,937	1,885	5,822
Database development	0	2,426	2,426	0	1,825	1,825
Sales agency fee	289	0	289	268	0	268
Office premises	287	0	287	306	0	306
Charitable donation	70	6	76	96	9	105
Overheads	1,113	1,113	2,226	687	687	1,375
Special contributors' scheme	12	0	12	6	0	6
Depreciation & Disposals	29	115	144	59	199	258
Marketing	17	36	53	14	63	77
Legal and professional	162	7	169	454	185	639
Business development	50	282	332	0	230	230
<b>Total administration costs</b>	<b>6,828</b>	<b>6,155</b>	<b>12,983</b>	<b>5,828</b>	<b>5,083</b>	<b>10,911</b>
<i>% of revenue</i>	<i>13%</i>		<i>22%</i>	<i>12%</i>		<i>20%</i>
<b>Surplus retained in the business</b> (shareholder funds available to be distributed)	<b>1,417</b>	<b>-1,274</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>-355</b>	<b>183</b>

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Financial information on relationships with other collective management organisations – 2023**

		Net paid £'000	Retention £'000	Gross Royalties £'000
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#### **Received from other CMOs**

• CLA	licensing of education rights under an agency agreement	2,328	289	2,616
• International RROs	licensing of NLA newspaper content under reciprocal agreements	904		

#### **Paid to other CMOs**

• PLS	licensing of magazine content represented by PLS	4,485	1,121	5,606
• International RROs	licensing of international newspaper content under reciprocal agreements	635	183	818

### **Breakdown of net royalties received from International RROs**

<b>Name of RRO</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Net royalties received from international RROs £'000</b>
Centre Francais D'Exploitation du Droit de Copie	France	297
Prolitteris	Switzerland	62
VG Wort	Germany	173
Kopinor	Norway	7
Stichting Reprerecht	Netherlands	42
Copydan	Denmark	58
Copibec	Canada	0
Copyright Agency Limited	Australia	114
Kopiosto	Finland	49
Literar Mechana	Austria	4
Access Copyright	Canada	5
Newspaper Licensing Ireland	Eire	28
Hong Kong Reprographic Rights	Hong Kong	0
International Publishers' Rights Organisation	Netherlands	3
Copiepresse	Belgium	32
Dramatic, Artistic & Literary Rights Organisation	South Africa	0
Spanish Reproduction Rights Centre (CEDRO)	Spain	0
Bonus	Sweden	18
Singnet	Singapore	0
Copyright Licensing Limited	New Zealand	2
Irish Copyright Licensing Agency	Eire	9
New Zealand Press Association Ltd	New Zealand	1
<b>Total received by NLA</b>		<b>904</b>

NLA has no visibility of the retained amount of royalties by the international RROs before the sum is remitted.

## Breakdown of net royalties paid to International RROs

Name of RRO	Location	Gross royalty payable by NLA £'000	Less NLA's retention £'000	Less withholding tax £'000	Net sum paid to RRO £'000
Centre Francais D'Exploitation du Droit de Copie	France	358	90	0	269
Kopiosto	Finland	1	0	0	1
Copibec	Canada	2	0	0	2
Access Copyright	Canada	5	1	0	4
Literar Mechana	Austria	3	1	0	3
Prolitteris	Switzerland	-	-	0	-
CopyRus	Russia	0	0	0	0
Newspaper Licensing Ireland	Eire	377	75	0	302
Stichting Reprrecht	Netherlands	-	-	0	-
Copyright Clearance Center Inc	USA	0	0	0	0
Kopinor	Norway	1	0	0	1
CopiePresse	Belgium	2	1	0	1
Copyright Agency Limited	Australia	27	5	1	21
Dramatic Artistic & Literary Rights Org Ltd	South Africa	-	-	0	-
Visapress -Gestao de Conteudos Dos Media, CRL	Portugal	2*	0	0	2
REPROPOL Stowarzyszenie Dziennikarzy	Poland	5	1	0	4
Bonus Copyright Access	Sweden	-	-	0	-
Spanish Reproduction Rights Centre (CEDRO)	Spain	32	6	0	25
Copydan	Denmark	3	1	0	2
<b>Total paid by NLA</b>		<b>818</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>635</b>



The Directors  
NLA Media Access Limited  
Mount Pleasant House  
Lonsdale Gardens  
Tunbridge Wells  
Kent  
TN1 1HJ

30 April 2024

## REPORT OF FACTUAL FINDINGS

### To the Directors of NLA Media Access limited

In accordance with our engagement letter dated 7 April 2022, we have performed the procedures agreed with you, as set out below, on the annual transparency report of NLA Media Access limited ('the Entity'), for the year ended 31 December 2023 ('the Financial Information').

### Responsibilities

As Directors of the Entity, you are responsible for:-

- Considering the sufficiency of the procedures for your purposes;
- Ensuring that accounting records are maintained which show and explain the Entity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the Entity; and
- Preparing the Financial Information and ensuring that it has been properly extracted from the Entity's accounting records.

It is our responsibility to prepare this report of factual findings.

We make no representation and assume no responsibility regarding the sufficiency of the procedures for your purposes.

### Purpose of this report and restrictions on its use

This report was prepared on your specific instructions for the purpose of communicating the factual findings of our work on the procedures performed, as specified below, and should not be relied upon for any other purpose. Our report may not have considered issues relevant to any third parties, any use such third parties may choose to make of our report is entirely at their own risk and we shall have no responsibility whatsoever in relation to such use. RSM UK Audit LLP neither owes nor accepts any responsibility whatsoever in respect of, or arising out of, or in, connection with the contents of this report to any parties, other than the Directors, who may have sight of this report and shall not be liable for any loss, damage or expense of whatever nature which is caused by their reliance on this report.

Our report is prepared solely for the confidential use of the Entity and solely for the purpose of your compliance with regulation 21 (2)(b) of the Collective Management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations 2016. This report is released to the Entity on the basis that it shall not be copied, referred to or disclosed, in whole or in part (save as otherwise permitted by agreed written terms), without our prior written consent. Without assuming or accepting any responsibility or liability in respect of this report to any party other than the Entity, we acknowledge that the Entity may be required to disclose this report to a party demonstrating a statutory right to see it, to enable such other parties to exercise statutory rights of access to this report.

This report is designed to meet the agreed requirements of the Entity and particular features of our engagement determined by the Entity's needs at the time. This report should not therefore be regarded as suitable to be used or relied on by any other party wishing to acquire any rights against RSM UK Audit LLP for any purpose or in any context. Any party other than the Entity which obtains access to this report or a copy and chooses to rely on this report (or any part of it) will do so at its own risk. To the fullest extent permitted by law, RSM UK Audit LLP will accept no responsibility or liability in respect of this report to any other party and shall not be liable for any loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature which is caused by any person's reliance on representations in this report.

## Specific procedures performed

We have performed specific procedures, in accordance with International Standard on Related Services ('ISRS') 4400 'Engagements to Perform Agreed-upon Procedures Regarding Financial Information', on the financial information, solely for the purpose of your compliance with regulation 21 (2)(b) of the Collective Management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations 2016 as summarised in "Guidance on the UK Regulations implementing the Collective Rights Management (CRM) Directive" issued by the Intellectual Property Office in February 2016.

The procedures are set out in *Annex A: Agreed upon procedures for the audit of an annual transparency report* of the "Guidance on the collective management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations 2016: supplementary guidance on annual transparency reports and audit" issued by the Intellectual Property Office in October 2017.

## Results of specific procedures undertaken

Solely on the basis of the above procedures, and taking into account the above discussions and representations, we report that:

- We carried out the procedures as set out in *Annex A: Agreed upon procedures for the audit of an annual transparency report* of the "Guidance on the collective management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations 2016: supplementary guidance on annual transparency reports and audit" issued by the Intellectual Property Office in October 2017. There were no errors or exceptions found as a result of our testing.

Because the above procedures do not constitute either an audit or a review made in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) or International Standards on Review Engagements, the objective of which would be the expression of assurance on the contents of the annual transparency report. Accordingly, we do not express any assurance on the Financial Information.

Had we performed additional procedures or had we performed an audit or a review of the Financial Information in accordance with auditing or review standards, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

Our report is solely for the purpose set out in the '*Specific procedures performed*' section of our report and for your information. You should not use it for any other purpose, distribute it or make it available (in whole or in part) or communicate it to any other party. We accept no responsibility or liability to any other party who is shown or gains access to this report (or any part thereof).

This report relates only to the Financial Information and does not extend to any financial statements of the Entity, taken as a whole.

RSM UK Audit LLP's audit work on the financial statements of the Entity is carried out in accordance with our statutory obligations and is subject to separate terms and conditions. This engagement will not be treated as having any effect on RSM UK Audit LLP's separate duties and responsibilities as the Entity's external auditors. RSM UK Audit LLP's audit report on the financial statements of the Entity is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. RSM UK Audit LLP's audit work has been undertaken so that they might state to the Entity's members those matters they are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, RSM UK Audit LLP does not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Entity and the Entity's members as a body, for its audit work, for its audit reports, or for the opinions it has formed.

To the fullest extent permitted by law RSM UK Audit LLP does not and will not, by virtue of our report or otherwise, assume or accept any duty of care or liability under this engagement to the Entity or to any other party, whether in contract, negligence or otherwise in relation to its audits of the Entity's financial statements.

We have no responsibility to update this report for events and circumstances occurring after the date of this report. However, if we are made aware of any matters that affect the validity of this report, we shall bring these to the attention of the Directors as soon as is practicable.

RSM UK Audit LLP

**RSM UK AUDIT LLP**

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Date: 30/04/24