

As Publisher at O'Brien Press, Ireland's leading independent publisher with over thirty-five years experience of operating in the Irish market, I wanted to put forward my views on current copyright legislation and moves to amend it.

Working in an indigenous publishing industry under threat from multinational publishers, the bottom line on copyright is clear – Irish jobs depend on the protection of copyright. Any erosion of copyright for our authors and their books will directly affect revenue in an already precarious economic climate. The form of copyright legislation we have at present works, and has worked for many years despite the huge developments in publishing.

In recent years, the biggest danger for creative industries has been copyright piracy – particularly in countries like India and China, which have now moved towards tightening up copyright controls to try and exclude the criminal element intent on profiting from exploitation of others' intellectual property. Piracy on a grand scale was recently attempted by Google, who brazenly set out to undermine copyright legislation and very nearly succeeded – but their 'settlement' was vehemently rejected by the French and German governments in particular, who recognise the real importance of safeguarding their culture through protection of intellectual property. I feel that Ireland should take a lead from many of the larger European countries and their positive policies for cultural industries.

Our view is that now, more than ever, the strict protection of copyright is vital for the survival of creative industries in Ireland, which already face an increasingly challenging environment.