

April 2025 Distribution Committee Update

Paramount+ 2025 - 2027

What is it?

Paramount+ is the Subscription Video On Demand (SVOD) service from Paramount.

What was discussed?

A renewed General Entertainment On Line (GEOL) licence covering the streaming service for the period April 2025 to March 2027. The Committee agreed to distribute royalties quarterly and to apply standard GEOL society splits of 50% PRS and 50% MCPS for distributions.

Disney Linear TV 2023 - 2026

What is it?

The Walt Disney Company ('Disney') operates channels which broadcast from the UK for reception in multiple territories across Europe, Middle East and Africa ('EMEA').

What was discussed?

The renewed licence for the period January 2023 – December 2026 continues with broadly the same basis as the previous licence, with a reduction in rights to use MCPS Commercial music.

The Committee agreed to the distribution of royalties with the broadcast fee split 72.08% to PRS and 27.92% to MCPS (in recognition of the licensing history of this broadcaster).

TNT Sports 2023 - 2025

What is it?

TNT Sports is a rebrand of all BT Sport's channels, following the launch of the Warner Bros., Discovery, and BT Group joint venture. The broadcaster has a mix of standard channels, a UHD 4K channel, 2 'box office' channels, and 6 digital/red-button channels.

What was discussed?

The new licence for the period September 2023 – August 2025 is on mostly the same basis as the preceding BT Sport licence, with a reduction in rights to use MCPS Commercial music.

The Committee agreed to the distribution of royalties with the broadcast fee split 72.62% to PRS and 27.38% to MCPS (in recognition of the licensing history of this broadcaster).

Antenna 2021 - 2026

What is it?

Antenna is a broadcaster with regional channels for AXN, Spin and Viasat. Antenna is based in Greece and acquired channels from Sony Columbia in 2021. The channels are broadcast from the UK for reception in Central-Eastern European territories only.

What was discussed?

The new licence for the period October 2021 – December 2026 covers the broadcast of musical works (controlled by PRS) and the broadcast of production music sound recordings in the UK as part of the licensed channels for reception in CEE. A very limited right included is solely for non-English language works in non-programme content on its own website in the UK.

The Committee agreed to allocate 10% of the licence fee to cover the MCPS rights in production of non-programme material.

Commercial Playlisting

What is it?

Commercial Playlisting is a new MCPS licensing scheme to cover the copies created for a library or playlist by a commercial business. For example, a small shop may copy music from a CD to an MP3 player or create a playlist of music downloaded from an online music service (they will also still need a public performance licence from PPL PRS Ltd to play the music on their premises).

What was discussed?

The Committee agreed to an annual distribution of Commercial Playlisting revenue using data from B2B music suppliers for physical products.

Digital Music Licence for Worship

What is it?

The Digital Music for Worship licence is a new licensing scheme which covers the use of music in the online streaming of worship services. The Digital Music Licence for Worship scheme is available to all religious organisations, although only Christian-aligned organisations have purchased licences to date.

What was discussed?

This licence is one of many planned targeted replacements for the Limited Online Music Licence (LOML), which is being phased out. The Committee agreed to distribute revenue across a combination of data from Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) and Christian radio stations, this being a mix of religious and secular music. This will be reviewed as the scheme progresses. Distributions will be on an annual basis.