

Frequently Asked Questions in relation to the Prior Approval Procedure

What is 'Prior Approval'?

Prior Approval is a term commonly used to describe instances where your permission may be required for the use of one or more of your musical works in particular contexts.

Why have I been approached to grant prior approval for the use of my work(s) if the BBC has a blanket agreement with PRS for Music?

PRS for Music have granted the BBC a blanket licence which covers them for the use of MCPS/PRS repertoire on the non-commercial public service activities including TV, Radio and Online services (e.g. iPlayer). This agreement covers the vast majority of uses. However, some restrictions apply where the BBC is required to obtain your approval. [Click here](#) for a summary of the instances where prior approval is required

Why is the BBC contacting me rather than PRS for Music?

The BBC is best-placed to explain the clearance being sought and the nature of the use. Should you require further information, please email BBCclearances@prsformusic.com

What happens if I agree to grant permission for the use of my work(s)?

The work will be licensed under the Blanket Licence so there will be no need to issue a separate licence agreement.

Can I charge an additional licence fee for the use of my work(s)?

No. If you grant approval for the use of your work(s), royalties will be paid to you according to PRS for Music's standard distribution policies.

If I agree to grant permission for the use of my work(s), will the BBC be permitted to subsequently use the work for additional purposes?

Yes. By way of example only, where the context of use remains the same, the BBC could *potentially* proceed to:

- broadcast repeats of the programme/item within which your work(s) is contained
- broadcast the programme/item on further BBC channels
- make the programme available as an on-demand stream and temporary download via the iPlayer
- make the programme available for DVD and/or permanent Download-to-Own (DTO) retail sale
- supply of the programme via BBC Worldwide to broadcasters and other operators
- in relation to signature tunes, re-commission a second (and further) series of the programme

Such additional uses will result in further royalty payments to you.

What happens if I decide not to grant permission for the use of my work(s)?

Should you decide not to grant approval for the use of the requested work(s) the BBC undertakes not to use the work(s).

Where can I get more information on PRS for Music royalty distributions?

[Click here](#) for details on PRS for Music distributions.