



# Transparency in Music Streaming Code is Coming: Are You Ready for 31 July?

[The Voluntary Code of Good Practice on Transparency in Music Streaming](#) was published in January 2024 by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO). The Code was developed by a group of experts from the music industry, including the MPA and various representatives from music creators, record labels, and digital service providers. The code aims to improve transparency around licensing and royalties for music streaming.

Ahead of the implementation date of 31 July, the MPA has prepared a checklist for publishers to ensure they are compliant with the main aspects of the Code. Members are strongly encouraged to read the Code in full to ensure full compliance.

## 1. Are your contracts with music makers clear?

Make sure all contracts with songwriters/composers are clear about remuneration terms, including information on recoupable advance; how royalties will be calculated, where the information will be shared (e.g royalty portal) and how frequently it will be shared- no less than twice a year under the new rules.

If your existing contracts do not contain the information above, then you should provide it to music makers once they request it

## 2. Are you communicating effectively with music makers and their managers?

Publishers should provide music makers and/or their managers details of any income received by DSPs for their compositions. This information should be categorised by the title, source, territory, and, where practicable and available, the DSP to which the income and usage relates.

## 3. Is your royalty portal comprehensive?

Royalty portals should include details of any income received by DSPs for musical compositions. This information should be categorised by the title, source, territory, and, where practicable and available the DSP to which the income and usage relates.

All royalty portals should also include contact information for music makers and/or representatives seeking further information. If you do not use a portal, this contact information should be provided to music makers directly.

## 4. Do you work with a third-party overseas publisher?

Publishers using a third-party overseas publisher should use reasonable efforts to obtain all the information they need from them to report and account to their music makers and/or managers.

## 5. Do you have an effective audit procedure?

Publishers should cooperate with any audits as agreed by contract and try to respond to requests and communications in a timely manner. NDAs may be used to ensure that any data disclosed during audits including commercially sensitive and/or protected data is kept confidential.