

CLA legal action forced Brighton and Hove City Council to take copyright licence

Following legal action taken by The Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) one of Britain's largest city councils has accepted that it needs a copyright licence.

Brighton and Hove City Council has agreed to pay The Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) an undisclosed sum to cover legal costs and retrospective licence fees as well as agreeing to take a CLA licence for the future.

Lawyers acting for the Council had originally told CLA that it was not at risk of copyright infringement as it operated a 'no copying' policy, but evidence gathered by CLA showed that the policy had not worked and infringement was taking place.

Martin Delaney, CLA's Legal Director, was pleased with the outcome of the case, saying:

'I am delighted that Brighton and Hove City Council has accepted that it should take a CLA licence. It is only fair that authors, visual artists and publishers should be compensated for the use of their copyright works.'

He also stressed CLA's continuing determination to investigate any reports of possible copyright infringement and to pursue councils or any other organisations that do not have a licence, but should have.

A CLA licence is normally required by businesses or public sector organisations to allow reproduction of electronic or online publications, copying and emailing of press cuttings and articles or photocopying and scanning from print books, journals or magazines. Failure to obtain the appropriate permission leaves an organisation open to legal action from CLA.

CLA monitors organisations where it is believed that illegal copying is taking place and investigates reports of copyright infringement in the workplace provided by individuals. If an organisation is found to be infringing copyright, then in some cases, its officers and employees can be held individually liable.

Councils that want to find out more about their requirement for a licence should contact CLA's public sector specialist Daniel Elsey at daniel.elsey@cla.co.uk or 0207 400 3135.

The Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd

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