



THE NEW ZEALAND
SOCIETY OF AUTHORS
(PEN NEW ZEALAND INC) TE PUNI KAITIHI O AOTEAROA

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3 February 2016

Paul Thompson
Chief Executive
Radio New Zealand
P O Box 123
Wellington

Dear Paul,

The New Zealand Society of Authors (PEN NZ Inc.) is the principal organisation for New Zealand writers. It has come to our attention that Radio New Zealand has reduced funding to the Radio NZ Drama and I am writing to express our concern about the impact this will have on New Zealand writing being heard on our Crown owned broadcasting service.

The reduced funding has resulted in fewer staff members in your drama department. It is also having a negative impact on rates offered to writers' for their works being adapted for radio and online audio broadcast. The fee being paid has not increased and yet the rights being asked for have. For example it is now a requirement to sign over unlimited New Zealand radio rights and online rights in perpetuity for a fee that is less than was offered in the past when the term was limited. Is there a rate schedule that is publicly available as I am currently reliant on information supplied by our writers?

We sympathise that you have not had any increase in funding for the past six years and I'm sure that is a contributing factor but it is important that the public broadcasting service continues to offer quality Radio Drama from books and plays written by New Zealanders and that the creators are paid fairly for the use of the original and adapted works.

Radio New Zealand has a wonderful commitment to New Zealand writing being heard on radio for which we are grateful. However we would like an opportunity to come and discuss some of the finer detail around this commitment with you. If it is possible to plan ahead, I will be in Wellington 11 March.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Dennis
Chief Executive

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The New Zealand Society of Authors (PEN NZ Inc.)

Principal advocate for the professional interests of writers. Protecting basic rights to freedom of expression. Working to improve income and conditions. Promoting New Zealand writing and literary culture.