



LICENSING MUSIC FOR CHANNEL 5 GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES – a step by step guide – Revised 6th May 2025

These guidance points should be used in conjunction with the information supplied in the Channel 5 Music Notes – These give summaries on IPC rate card costs for commercial music, summaries on C5 Blanket agreements, Production Library music, PACT MU agreement and Industry contact list.

When using commercial music, the **first step is to ensure you have an IPC agreement in place with MCPS for synchronising commercial musical works.** Contact Alice Hamer – alice.hamer@prsformusic.com or Alice's phone number is 020 3741 4565

If you are licensing commercial music in a production where the music is being edited in the Republic of Ireland, you should contact David Galligan. David.galligan@imro.ie You are able to license the same IPC rights at the same rates as you would with MCPS.

For Channel 5 – Transmissions and costs under the IPC Agreement – See also **Music Usage and Costs Guidance Notes.**

With commercial music licensed under an IPC License, C5 Producers are **usually** requested to clear for a max of 3 transmissions. Any additional Channel 5 transmissions or narrative repeats are covered under the C5 PRS blanket agreement. Therefore, the cost for **3 transmissions per 30 seconds on Channel 5** (or part thereof) is £211. For clarity on the number of transmissions, reference the instructions in your Production Agreement

For the C5 digital channels - Transmissions and costs under the IPC Agreement – A Play week is defined as permitting up to 2 transmissions per play week.

8 play weeks per 30 seconds costs £115.

16 play weeks per 30 seconds costs £230.

Following the first 16 play weeks 8 additional play weeks costs £58, therefore an additional 16 play weeks would cost £116.

Please note there is a 50% discount on every 8 play weeks after the first 16 built into the costs above.

For clarity on the number of play weeks, reference the instructions in your Production Agreement.

Standard Package of transmissions and costs. Refer to your Production Agreement for the exact number of C5 transmissions and digital channel play weeks.

3 x C5 Transmissions costs (per 30 seconds or part thereof) £211

16 play weeks (per 30 seconds or part thereof) cost £230

Total package costs per 30 seconds = £441

STEPS FOR CLEARANCE CHECKS FOR MUSICAL WORKS LICENSED UNDER A MCPS IPC LICENSE

Checking the synchronisation of music tracks under an IPC License.

- As mentioned, the first step is to check with your Legal representative that your company has an IPC License agreement in place with PRS.
- All uses of commercial music licensed under an IPC license are costed in 30 second units or part thereof. **There is no aggregation of music durations permitted** in licensing commercial music under this license agreement. Each separate duration of commercial music is required to be licensed separately on the IPC rate card.
- Commercial music can only be licensed under an IPC agreement if it is synched in the UK. Please contact Music Services if the synchronisation is taking place **outside the UK**.

STEPS

Check the song title on the PRS database by searching under composer surname or artist. Make sure you pick the right version. Sometimes there is more than one with the same title and with different composer details. If in doubt, contact the IPC Team. See contact details in **Music Usage and Costs Guidance Notes**.

- Check on each song that MCPS license **100% of the mechanical rights**. If they do not add up to 100% contact the IPC team. Sometimes some publishing shares are in "Copyright Control" or one of the composers may not be a MCPS composer or may not have assigned rights to a publisher. If in doubt check with the IPC team.
- Check all works to see if any appear on the **IPC Exclusion List**. **(This is found on the PRS database)**. **You will have to license directly with Publishers if any works are found on this list.**
- **Mark Knopfler** – Mark Knopfler has withdrawn his rights to license music under IPC or Broadcaster blankets for TV programmes. If you intend to use his music, you will need to contact his Management Company and license direct or contact PRSforMusic.
- **Licensing music for Opening Closing rolling credits and break bumpers** – This use is **excluded** from the IPC License, and you are advised to license any music Direct with publishers.
- **Changes to lyrics or to the original composition** – Any changes to lyrics or to the original composition will necessitate a direct clearance with Music Publishers.

- **Other restrictions in the IPC Agreement** – such as advertising, sponsorship – Reference IPC Agreement.

PPL (Phonographic Performance Ltd) – Channel 5 has a blanket agreement in place with PPL. However, there are checks that the Producer has to follow to make sure that any use of commercial recordings are clearable under this blanket.

- **TERRITORIES FOR SYNCHING AND COPYING COMMERCIAL RECORDINGS** - To synch PPL commercial recordings, and in order to comply with the C5 PPL blanket, the final edit/synch must take place in the UK. If PPL sound recordings are being finally edited into programmes made in the Republic of Ireland, this is still fine as the Irish PPL, known as PPI has their repertoire licensed by PPL in the UK. If you are syncing or copying recordings in any other countries outside the UK, you need to approach the local PPL Society in that country or contact the record company in that country and license for all the rights, Channels, and transmissions that C5 instructs the Producer in the Production Agreement.

STEPS FOR CLEARANCE CHECKS FOR COMMERCIAL RECORDINGS (PPL)

- Go to the PPL website - www.ppluk.com, and search under PPL Repertoire Search.
- Make sure the song and artist you are checking is listed and check there is a ISRC number available. Make a Note of the Record Label and ISRC number for cue sheet reporting purposes.
- If you cannot find a song on the database, it is not covered by the C5 PPL blanket agreement. If the recording is very new contact PPL.
- Excluded artists include **Beatles** and **John Lennon**
- **Original Film soundtrack recordings** are NOT covered under the C5 PPL blanket. It is worth exploring the Silva Screen Records catalogue of Film soundtracks, where many original Film Soundtracks have been re-recorded. Silva Screen is a registered PPL label and is clearable under the C5 PPL blanket agreement. Another advantage of using Silva Screen is that there are generally no MU payments to make on Silva Screen recordings as these have been “bought out”.
- See also **Music Usage and Costs Guidance Notes** for a summary of exclusions and advice on dos and don'ts when using commercial recordings.
- For any UK released commercial recordings you use, send a list of songs to the Musicians Union Media Department – contacts are in the notes above. If any contain MU members' performances, The MU will advise on costs referencing the MU rate card. Check a summary of costs in the C5 notes – **Dubbing of commercial recordings in TV programmes – Appendix C under the PACT MU agreement.**

VPL (Video Performance Ltd) – Channel 5 has a blanket agreement in place with VPL. However, there are checks that the Producer has to follow to make sure any use of short form music videos are clearable under this blanket.

- **TERRITORIES FOR SYNCHING AND COPYRING SHORT FORM MUSIC VIDEOS** - To synch VPL controlled music videos, and to comply with the C5 VPL blanket, the final edit/synch must take place in the **UK**. If music videos are being finally edited into programmes made in the Republic of Ireland, this is still fine as the Irish PPL known as PPI has their repertoire licensed by PPL in the UK. If you are syncing or copying recordings in any other countries outside the UK, you need to approach the local PPL Society in that country or contact the record company in that country and license for all the rights, channels and transmissions that C5 instructs the Producer to clear in the Production Agreement.
- If you use a VPL registered music video, in general all the MU costs are bought out and there are no further costs to clear. Channel 5 has a blanket agreement in place with VPL for the **broadcast and sync of music videos**.

STEPS FOR CLEARANCE CHECKS FOR VPL CONTROLLED SHORT FORM MUSIC VIDEOS

- Go to **PPL website** – www.ppluk.com, and search under VPL Repertoire Search. See options at the bottom of the PPL screen.
- Make sure the song and artist you are checking is listed and check there is a ISRC number available. Make a Note of the Record Label
- If you cannot find a song listed on the VPL database, it is not covered under the C5 VPL Blanket agreement – If the video is very new contact VPL to see if they can license it and if they have any further details.
- Always make a note of the ISRC reference number which each video has for cue sheet reporting purposes.

Be very wary of any **archive or live performances** listed as videos on the VPL website. I would strongly recommend that you check these with VPL. Contact details **Music Usage and Costs Guidance Notes**.

- Specific artists excluded are **Beatles** and **John Lennon**.
- You will be required to license the commercial musical work contained on the music under the IPC License Agreement.
- See C5 notes for a summary of VPL dos and don'ts when using music videos

MUSICIANS UNION – Performances of Musician Union Musicians

See instructions under **PPL (ABOVE)** if you use any **UK commercial retail recordings** – The MU will check their database, to see if any of their members' performances were included on the tracks that you submitted and they will inform you and advise on costs.

For the dubbing of commercial retail recordings into your programme, you will need to pay the

appropriate MU Appendix C fee, if this is for a background use, which is £29.11 per 30 seconds or part thereof. This fee covers **all** MU member musicians on the track. If the use is **featured**, please discuss the rates with the MU.

For the use of Archive clips recorded in the UK – check and discuss rates directly with the MU – see the full summary of rates in the **Channel 5 Music Usage and Costs Notes**

PRODUCTION LIBRARY MUSIC

If you are using repertoire from any **MCPS registered production libraries**, the repertoire must be synched into your programme which is finally edited **in the UK, Republic of Ireland or Malta**. Once the programme is transmitted on the C5 channels, the rights thereafter clear “in all media, worldwide and in perpetuity”. The same with any music used from the Paramount Global Music Library. If you are synching the music in a programme which is being **edited outside of the UK, ROI or Malta**, the **Paramount Global Music Library is your only option**.

For full details on using Production library music – please refer to **The C5 Music Usage and Costs Guidance Notes**.

PROGRAMMES WHICH CONTAIN MANY ARCHIVE CLIPS

For advice and guidance on licensing music in archive heavy programmes, please refer to the separate advisory notes Document - **Music in Archive Clips notes**