

3 COPYRIGHT DESIGNS AND PATENTS ACT 1988 - NEW DUTIES (AN126-2007)

Committee is asked to note the commencement of UK wide legislation that brings into force new sections of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988. These sections impose new duties on local authorities to enforce the copyright offences in sections 107 and 198 of the Copyright Designs & Patents Act 1988, from 6th April 2007.

The public enforcement of the offences has previously been a matter for the Police alone, but this commencement complements the long established powers and duties of local authority Trading Standards Officers, under Trade Description and Trade Marks Acts, to pursue those who sell, manufacture or distribute counterfeit and 'pirated' goods.

The Treasury has made £423,000 available in Scotland to support implementation of these new duties, and Dundee City Council has been allocated £10,000.

Committee is also asked to note that discussions are ongoing with several local authorities, to explore possible joint working opportunities to ensure the most efficient and effective use of this new money. Members will be updated with any developments in this respect.