

## Tekst 3

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### *Letters*

## Downloading trouble

It is not just multi-millionaire rock stars who are affected by illegal downloads from the internet (Letters, June 22), but a multitude of lesser-known artists whose record sales mean they barely scrape an income. Avant-garde and cult artists are further impoverished by this mean-spirited form of theft. It also makes it increasingly difficult for them to continue to create and continue with their music. Such illegal downloading helps to further marginalise the non-mainstream arts, thus constricting creativity and promoting cultural conformity with mass tastes.

While it may be that record companies are greedy, brutal and ugly, it is also true that some of their arguments against illegal downloading are both legally, morally and aesthetically correct.

**Eric Longley**

Media division, Assets Ltd

● Sylvia Price is paying an unfair and heavy price for her daughter's music file-sharing and downloading habit (Mother faces music, June 21) – £4,000 and the criminalisation of her daughter is a “bully boy” response from a music industry caught napping by advancing technology. Every wave in that advance – from CDs to downloading – has been resisted by an industry more interested in its own preservation than in serving the needs of consumers. Greater willingness to embrace new technology and run with its implications for the future of music distribution could have avoided expensive and pointless actions against consumers.

**Ed Mayo**

National Consumer Council

*The Guardian*

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- 1p 3 What is the main point made by Eric Longley (first letter)?  
The record industry's attitude towards illegal downloading
- A is based on at least some good reasons.
  - B is fair considering its recent losses.
  - C is merely aimed at protecting its own interests.
  - D is particularly harmful to experimental pop musicians.
- 1p 4 What is the main point with regard to illegal downloading of music files made by Ed Mayo (second letter)?
- A Hackers will always be one step ahead of those trying to protect music files.
  - B Punishing offenders will not stop others from trying their luck.
  - C The record companies themselves are largely to blame for it.