Dear Society of Authors

I am writing to seek your support for equal VAT-status to be applied to audio books as already exists for e-books and physical books. I know this is something you have campaigned for in the past. #ZeroVATonAudiobooks

As you know audio books are now widely available across all genres; from business to academic, from historical to self help, and they offer a lifeline for many people with sight loss, visual impairment, dyslexia or other reading disabilities.

Audio books offer unique opportunities for visually-impaired and dyslexic people to improve their education on a par with their peers and in many cases enable visually-impaired and dyslexic people to continue working independently for longer and thereby contribute to the economy for longer.

Whilst I welcome the zero-rate VAT for e-books it is also the case that e-books, when read aloud by automated text-to-speech, are difficult to listen to for long periods. They lack intonation, may mispronounce names and places and can often read out every bracket and notation, making it difficult to comprehend or recall meaning.

Other European countries have recently reduced their rates of VAT on audiobooks, Norway to zero, and I believe the UK should now do the same.

I would be grateful for any support you can offer and, even better, if you are able to ask your supporters to contact their MP to sign my Early Day Motion (No. 893).

People can find out who their MP is here: https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP.

My Early Day Motion is published here: https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/60609.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely
Mike Penning

Data protection and privacy policies can be found here: https://www.penning4hemel.com/privacy