

## **The Patent Regulation Board and the Trade Mark Regulation Board (The Intellectual Property Regulation Board) Business Plan for 2018**

### **Policy Focus and Objectives**

The regulatory objectives which underpin all of IPReg's activities are:

- *protecting and promoting the public interest;*
- *supporting the constitutional principle of the rule of law;*
- *improving access to justice;*
- *protecting and promoting the interests of consumers;*
- *promoting competition in the provision of legal services;*
- *encouraging an independent, strong, diverse and effective legal profession;*
- *increasing public understanding of the citizen's legal rights and duties;*
- *promoting and maintaining adherence to the professional principles*

### **A period of transition**

The Board is undergoing a period of transition. It is being led by an acting Chair pending the appointment of a new Chair. The Chief Executive has left after 8 years and has been replaced by a new Chief Executive and also a Head of Registration which is a new appointment.

Equally in March 2018 two professional members will retire on completion of their two three-year terms.

To ensure a smooth transition the Board has disbanded its two committees and is meeting monthly to facilitate the sharing of corporate knowledge and resource.

The Board has made a strategic decision to limit new initiatives in 2018, enabling the new Chief Executive and Head of Registration when in post, working with the Board, to inform the strategic direction.

## Specific Work Programme for 2018

Below we set out specific new activities in our 2018 work programme and (to provide continuity) of the activities commenced in 2017 but which might be ongoing in 2018.

*Note: annual activities, such as the appointment and appraisal of board members, submission of the IGR (internal governance review) to the LSB and formal admissions to and publication of the statutory registers, are not shown although the plan does highlight areas where the annual activities are intended to be undertaken in a different way in 2017.*

Regulatory and Policy		
New Initiatives for 2018		
	Activity	Description
1	Assurance Programme	Implement thematic review and follow up engagement as appropriate in relation to the role of attorneys in tax structuring arrangements which might be regarded as facilitation and/or promotion of tax avoidance.
2	Research	In partnership with the IPO develop indicators of professional competition, strength and consumer risk from IPO data.
3	Consumer Engagement	CMA Legal Services Market Study Report - Implement IPReg Action Plan through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consultation on and implementation of any new guidance and (if necessary) rule changes on fee scoping arrangements.</li> <li>provide IPReg's share of funding for and (through the Editorial Panel) take an active role in the development of the Legal Choices website (and social media) and a joint digital register</li> <li>review and assessment of other Regulators' actions on promotion of independent feedback platforms and making data available to comparison websites and other intermediaries.</li> </ul>
4	BREXIT	Monitor potential implications of BREXIT on the profession

<b>Regulatory and Policy</b>		
<b>Ongoing Activities</b>		
	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Diversity</b>	Promote the availability of IPReg funds to support diversity initiatives being undertaken to encourage diversity into and in the intellectual property legal services profession.
<b>2</b>	<b>IPReg Code</b>	Continue the programme of workshops “Ethics and the Code of Conduct”

<b>Education Training and Qualification</b>		
<b>New Initiatives for 2018</b>		
	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Continuing Professional Development</b>	(Following completion of the benchmarking in 2017 of the IPReg CPD obligations against the CPD arrangements of other legal and non-legal providers and the publication of the results) consult on (as necessary) any proposed changes
<b>2</b>	<b>Competency Training</b>	(Following completion in 2017 of informal consultation on a draft template) publish (as guidance) a Training Protocol for supervised training, aimed, in particular, at those new to a supervisory role and/or trainees in small firms  Promote awareness of the Patent and Trade Mark Competency Checklists alongside the Training Protocol

<b>Education, Training and Qualification</b>		
<b>Ongoing Activities</b>		
	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Accreditations</b>	Continue the cycle of the accreditation of Examination Agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queen Mary 2017</li> <li>• Patent Examination Board 2017</li> <li>• Nottingham Trent Law School 2017/18</li> <li>• Bournemouth 2018</li> <li>• Brunel 2020</li> </ul>

## Communications

### Initiatives for 2018

*A full communications strategy (as outlined in the 2017 Business Plan) will be implemented following the appointment of a new Chair. These activities are designed to promote awareness of the benefits of IPReg as an independent and specialist legal regulator.*

*The activities below as intended as interim measures.*

	Activity	Description
1	Events (including Conferences)	Presentations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the purpose of IPReg and the benefits of IPReg as an independent specialist legal regulator</li> <li>the importance of IP protection to the UK and worldwide</li> <li>the differences between regulated and unregulated markets</li> </ul>
2	Networking	Continue to network by increasing links to individuals involved in IP from other organisations so that a wider audience understands IPReg's purpose and its value of as an independent specialist regulator