

The Patent Regulation Board and the Trade Mark Regulation Board (The Intellectual Property Regulation Board) Business Plan for 2013

1 Policy Focus and Objectives for 2013

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

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

Our Business Plan 2013 has, as its main focus, the progress of our application for licensing authority status.

We plan also to commission research to identify where intellectual property "legal" services are being provided by non regulated bodies and the risk to consumers of such activities.

We expect full commissioning of our new website enabling better access for consumers and, for registrants, the ability to maintain data and pay practice fees on line.

We will also continue to progress the work identified in our Education Plan.

2 Specific Work Programme for 2013

Details of the specific activities in our 2013 work programme are shown below:

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 2013.

ABS			
1	Entity Questionnaire	<p>Analyse data received and complete risk profiling of registered entities.</p> <p>Consider impact on resources within IPReg's office.</p>	
2	Licensing Application	<p>Following submission of the licensing application, liaise with LSB regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the statutory consultations (ie, the OFT, the Lord Chancellor and the Legal Services Consumer Panel); • approval by the LSB ; and • submission to Parliament and approval of S69 and S80 orders <p>Review fee scales and revise if necessary.</p> <p>Develop additional operations/processes for authorisation, supervision and disciplining of firms and individuals and revise or prepare (as necessary) application forms etc.</p> <p>Put in place contracts with third party suppliers in relation to the outsourcing of certain activities (e.g., elements of the authorisation process).</p> <p>Implement compensation arrangements.</p>	
3	Communication	<p>Working with CIPA and ITMA continue a programme of presentations, workshops, articles and FAQs regarding ABS licensing.</p>	
4	Resource	<p>Consider impact of new licensing regime on resources within IPReg's office. Liaise with the LSB.</p> <p>Implement programme of recruitment and (if necessary) search for new premises.</p> <p>Assess training requirements for staff to enhance skills base and purchase relevant training.</p>	

Research and Communication			
	Activity	Description	Priority
1	Website	Complete commissioning of the new IPReg website.. Registrants to maintain data and pay on line.	1
2	Research	Commission research on unregulated intellectual property legal services and review results. Monitor implementation (Oct 2012) of the Patent County Court small claims procedure (intended to widen access to the lay applicant).	2
3	Diversity	In autumn 2012 IPReg will have published the results of the IPReg diversity survey and run a programme of workshops and articles. In 2013 IPReg will continue to raise awareness of this issue.	2
4	Liaison meetings	Continue regular meetings with main stakeholders including LSB, CIPA, ITMA, LeO, PAMIA and other ARs as necessary	3
5	Meetings with registrants	Continue the programme of presentations at regular open meetings with registrants to maintain their awareness of the regulatory regime, update them on developments and to receive their feedback.	3

Consumer Protection			
	Activity	Description	Priority
1	First tier complaints	Continue annual collection of statistics and review. Publish any necessary guidelines.	1
2	Service Complaints (Legal Ombudsman)	Continue to review emerging patterns in the types and numbers of complaints being made.	2
3	Conduct Complaints (PRB and TRB)	Implement changes to the Disciplinary Rules to ensure rules are used appropriately in the promotion of the regulatory principles and to prevent their use in "thicket litigation" and for other vexatious and similar reasons.	1