

The Patent Regulation Board and the Trade Mark Regulation Board (The Intellectual Property Regulation Board) Business Plan for 2014

1 Policy Focus and Objectives for 2014

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 2014 has, as its main focus, the launch of our regulation of Alternative Business Structures in spring 2014 and, in parallel, the launch of the IPReg Assurance Programme.

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

2 Specific Work Programme for 2014

Details of the specific activities in our 2014 work programme are shown overleaf:

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 2014.

Alternative Business Structures (ABS)			
1	IPReg office	<p>Conclude programme for appointment and training of officers.</p> <p>Revise induction arrangements for new board members.</p> <p>Prepare or revise (as necessary) application forms and supporting documentation for registrations and approvals.</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>Establish working arrangements with the General Regulatory Chamber regarding ABS appeals.</p>	1
2	Authorisations	<p>Conclude statutory amendments to facilitate regulation of ABS and existing registrants.</p> <p>Implement compensation arrangements.</p> <p>Ahead of licensing (spring 2014):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make necessary amendments to the approach to authorisation to incorporate the requirements of the Legal Services Act 2007 and the amendments to the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 and the Trade Mark Act 1994; • offer guidance to and deal with enquiries from firms that are potentially licensable; • pilot the authorisation process with a number of potential applicants. <p>Post-licensing (assuming that IPReg is licensed):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine ABS applications from licensable bodies prior to completion of the transitional period. • review authorisation processes (at year end) 	1
3	Communication	<p>Working with CIPA and ITMA, continue a programme of presentations, workshops, articles and FAQs regarding ABS licensing.</p> <p>Regularly update dedicated page of IPReg website.</p> <p>Procure training modules for prospective Heads of Legal Practice and Head of Finance and Administration.</p>	2
4	Entity Practice Fees	<p>Consult (July 2014) on a possible move to turnover-based practice fee scales.</p>	3

Research and Communication			
	Activity	Description	Priority
1	Website	<p>Expand the information available via the website to include a page dedicated to litigants in person.</p> <p>Publish the IPReg Consumer Engagement Policy and commission any necessary follow up research.</p>	1
2	Research	<p>Review research (commissioned in 2013) on unregulated intellectual property legal services and agree any appropriate actions</p> <p>Continue to monitor implementation (Oct 2012) of the Patent County Court small claims procedure (intended to widen access to the lay applicant).</p>	2
3	Diversity	<p>Publish diversity statistics in the agreed format.</p> <p>Working with CIPA, ITMA and the IP Federation (as the IP Diversity Forum), implement a series of co-ordinated events and information/guidance in relation to the issue of diversity and inclusion.</p> <p>Work with other stakeholders to increase awareness such as “Generating Genius”.</p> <p>Provide helpful links via the IPReg website.</p>	2
4	Liaison meetings	<p>Continue regular meetings with main stakeholders including LSB, CIPA, ITMA, LeO, PAMIA and other ARs as necessary.</p>	3
5	Meetings with registrants	<p>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.</p>	3

Consumer Protection			
	Activity	Description	Priority
1	First tier complaints (i.e. “in the office”)	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	IPReg Assurance Programme	<p>Publish IPReg’s Assurance Policy Document.</p> <p>Agree supervision programme based on risk assessments.</p> <p>Implement the IPReg Assurance Programme to include desk top thematic reviews and targeted on site visits.</p> <p>Amend (as necessary) format for future risk-based reporting from firms.</p>	1
4	IPReg Code	Embed understanding of the obligation in the Code through a series on presentations delivered on line. Applicants will be required to certify that they have viewed the series before being admitted to the register.	2