

25th February 2016

Julie Myers
Corporate Director
Legal Services Board
One Kemble Street
London
WC2B 4AN

2016 – 17 Business Plan

Dear Julie,

The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA), the representative body for the UK's patent attorney profession, welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Legal Services Board's draft business plan for 2016/17. CIPA recognises and supports the LSB's stated aims to modernise regulation, deregulate where this is in the interests of proportionate regulation and to hold regulators to account. CIPA is fully supportive of a regulatory framework which works in the best interests of the users of the intellectual property system and which recognises that intellectual property practitioners operate in a highly competitive global environment.

CIPA particularly welcomes the LSB's drive to hold regulators to account and, within that, to ensure that regulatory bodies operate independently from the professional bodies named in the Legal Services Act 2007 as the Approved Regulators. You will know that CIPA, in partnership with the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys, established the Intellectual Property Regulation Board (IPReg) through a Delegation Agreement which clearly sets out the independent nature of regulation across the IP professions. Whilst we recognise that there are improvements that can be made, we are proud that we have set in place a model of regulation which enables both IPReg and CIPA to focus on their regulatory and representative roles respectively, free from any bias or overlap.

Whilst not explicit in the business plan, we know that the LSB is keen to continue its work exploring alternative models of regulation and the changes that could be made both within the scope of the existing Act and within the context of an amended or new framework. We would like to assure the LSB that CIPA is willing to consider refining and evolving the regulatory regime where this is in the best interests of those who rely on the services of IP professionals and that we would welcome the opportunity to help the LSB develop its thinking in this regard.

CIPA
The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys

95 Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1DT
T: 020 7405 9450
F: 020 7430 0471
E: mail@cipa.org.uk
w: cipa.org.uk

PATENTS
TRADE MARKS
DESIGNS
COPYRIGHT

The LSB will be aware that the UK's patent attorneys operate internationally and specifically in Europe, where we are on the cusp of the introduction of the Unitary Patent and the Unified Patents Court. Notwithstanding the outcome on the EU referendum, the reforms to the European patent system will change the landscape within which UK patent attorneys work and we would be delighted to work with the LSB and IPReg to determine how regulation needs to change to keep pace with the development of a modern, vibrant, diverse, high quality legal services sector, as signposted in the business plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Davies', with a stylized, cursive style.

Lee Davies
Chief Executive

cc: Ann Wright Chief Executive, IPReg
Keven Bader Chief Executive, ITMA