

The Patent Regulation Board and the Trade Mark Regulation Board (The Intellectual Property Regulation Board) Business Plan for 2017

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*

Specific Work Programme for 2017

Details are shown overleaf of the specific new activities in our 2017 work programme and also (to provide continuity) of the activities commenced in 2016 but which are likely to be ongoing in 2017.

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 2017		
	Activity	Description
1	Assurance Programme	<p>Implement thematic reviews and follow up engagement as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legal privilege for attorneys • file ownership, file retention and destruction polices, cost of transfer of files and liens • contingency cover for sole practitioners
2	Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review, publish and action (as appropriate) the outcome of the research undertaken in 2016 jointly by IPReg and the Legal Services Board into the delivery of intellectual property legal services by unregulated providers. • Undertake research into data/cyber security issues affecting the profession and (if appropriate) implement thematic review in 2018 • Review the IPReg website pages “Got an Idea” with a particular focus on providing additional information and signposting for SMEs.
3	Consumer Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review, publish and action (as appropriate) the outcome of the research being undertaken in 2016 jointly by all the Legal Regulators into the effectiveness of client care letter/terms and conditions in the delivery of consumer focussed outcomes. • Review publish and action (as appropriate) LSB rule changes (and/or guidance) relating to the publication of complaints data
4	Diversity Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the availability of IPReg funds to support diversity initiatives being undertake to encourage diversity into and in the intellectual property legal services profession. • Review, publish and action (as appropriate) revised LSB Guidance on the publication of diversity statistics

Regulatory and Policy		
Ongoing Activities		
	Activity	Description
1	Rule Changes - Support to the Profession	<p>Provide further training on the regulatory rule changes particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the handling of client monies • the obligations under money laundering regulations • the responsibilities of a Head of Legal Practice (“HoLP”) and a Head of Finance and Administration (“HoFA”) <p>Procure training modules for prospective HoLPs and HoFAs</p>
2	IPReg Code	<p>Embed understanding of the obligations in the Code through a series of presentations delivered on-line and/or via the supervisor.</p>

Education Training and Qualification		
New Initiatives for 2017		
	Activity	Description
1	Patent Examinations	Review, publish and action (as appropriate) the outcome of the research undertaken in 2016 jointly by IPReg and the Patent Examinations Board into FD4 (formerly P6).
2	Continuing Professional Development	Benchmark the IPReg CPD obligations against the CPD arrangements of other legal and non-legal providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and publish findings Consider (and consult on as necessary) any proposed changes

Education, Training and Qualification		
Ongoing Activities		
	Activity	Description
1	Accreditations	Continue the cycle of the accreditation of Examination Agencies (Bournemouth , Brunel, Queen Mary London, Nottingham Trent, the Patent Examination Board)
2	Competency Training	Promote awareness of the Patent and Trade Mark Competency Checklists Explore the need for best practice guidance on supervised training (to include a possible template "memorandum of understanding" setting out training commitments)
3	Training in Professional and Ethical behaviour	Explore how and when training in professional and ethical behaviour is best provided to trainee and/or qualified attorneys.

Communications

New Initiatives for 2017

The activities are designed to promote awareness of the benefits of IPReg as an independent and specialist legal regulator.

	Activity	Description
1	Events (including Conferences)	<p>Presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the purpose of IPReg and the benefits of IPReg as an independent specialist legal regulator the importance of IP protection to the UK and worldwide the differences between regulated and unregulated markets
2	E-newsletter	<p>Interview key IP opinion leaders for articles about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the purpose of IPReg and the benefits of IPReg as an independent specialist legal regulator the importance of IP protection to the UK and worldwide the differences between regulated and unregulated markets
3	Social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote IPReg through articles and activities on channels such as the professional networking site LinkedIn Share relevant content from other sources to the audiences following IPReg on social media platforms
4	Networking	<p>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</p>