

The Patent Regulation Board and the Trade Mark Regulation Board (The Intellectual Property Regulation Board)

DRAFT/Business Plan for 2015

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*

Our Business Plan 2015 has, as its main focus, the launch of our regulation of Alternative Business Structures in January 2015 and, in parallel, the launch of the IPReg Assurance Programme.

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

Specific Work Programme for 2015

Details of the specific activities in our 2015 work programme are shown over leaf. Many of the activities have been brought forward from 2014 as they are associated with our designation as a licensing authority which was postponed to January 2015

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>After designation on 1st January 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (as necessary) put in place contracts with third party suppliers in relation to the outsourcing of certain activities (e.g., elements of the authorisation process). • establish working arrangements with the General Regulatory Chamber regarding ABS appeals. • determine ABS applications from licensable bodies prior to expiry of the transitional period. • review authorisation processes (at year end) 	1
2	Training	<p>Issue written guidance and 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>	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 the dedicated pages of IPReg website.</p>	2
4	Entity Practice Fees	<p>Consult (July 2015) on a possible move to turnover- based practice fee scales.</p>	3

Research and Communication			
	Activity	Description	Priority
1	Website	<p>Undertake programme of enhancement to the IPReg website expanding functionality and particularly improving collection of CPD compliance data.</p> <p>(With the other legal regulators) promote the “Legal Choices” website</p> <p>http://www.legalchoices.org.uk/</p>	1
2	Research	<p>Commission and review research on unregulated intellectual property legal services and agree any appropriate actions.</p> <p><i>(This activity was deferred due to difficulties in the collection of the necessary data but in 2015 the IPO are intending to publish details of the applicants’ agents which may enable this research to commence)</i></p> <p>Continue to monitor the Enterprise Court small claims procedure (intended to widen access to the lay applicant).</p>	2
3	Diversity	<p>Continue to publish diversity statistics in the format agreed with the LSB.</p> <p>Via the IP Diversity Forum (CIPA, ITMA, the IP Federation and IPReg) encourage attorney firms to sign up to the Law Society Diversity Charter.</p> <p>Work with other stakeholders to increase awareness of charities supporting access into the profession such as “Generating Genius” and others.</p> <p>Provide helpful links via the IPReg website.</p> <p>Facilitate voluntary donations to nominated charities via the IPReg Pro accounts</p>	2

4	Liaison meetings	<p>Develop stronger working relationships with the IPO</p> <p>Liaise with the MOJ regarding the contribution of the profession to “UK PLC”</p> <p>Attend and contribute to the Global Legal Summit in February 2015</p> <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

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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	IPReg Assurance Programme This programme will now commence after implementation of the new rule changes relating to the handling of client monies	Publish IPReg’s Assurance Policy Document. Agree supervision programme based on risk assessments. Implement the IPReg Assurance Programme to include desk top thematic reviews and targeted on site visits. Amend (as necessary) format for future risk-based reporting from firms.	1
3	IPReg Code	Embed understanding of the obligation in the Code through a series on presentations delivered on line and/or via the supervisor. Review enquiries to IPReg office to determine if there any patterns	2