

5 August 2015

To: IPReg Registrants

Dear Registrant

Consultation: 2016 Business Plan, Budget and Registration fees

This letter commences the formal consultation process into which we enter each year. This process ensures that you have an opportunity to offer your views.

The IPReg Board has worked on its Business Plan for 2016 and concluded that the mandatory requirements contained in the Legal Services Act 2007 remain demanding - there has been and remains little or no room for other activities. Over the years we have been encouraged by the Legal Services Board to improve our performance and match the 'regulatory presence' of some other regulators.

For our part, the Board has observed that the IP profession, when taken as a whole, does not present the same level of risk as some others. That said, it is not possible for the Board to assert that there is nothing for us to do. Professional regulation is a dynamic topic and nothing stays the same. The legal services market has changed greatly and the international reputation of the IP profession continues to grow (and we would argue that regulation has played its part in the enhanced esteem).

The Board has ensured that its expertise in education, ABS (with some very complex corporate structures) and market knowledge, continue to develop, all of which costs money. A decision has, therefore, been made that IPReg must adhere to the financial disciplines (with which our registrants and entities are familiar) while at the same time ensuring that the resources are available to continue the work expected of us.

You will see that the Board proposes that the cost per registrant is increased next year. No increase is ever welcomed, but I hope you will agree that the cash increase is modest and that the fees payable by IP professionals compare well with others.

I hope you will find the time to read our proposals in detail and if you wish to comment - you will.

Yours sincerely



Michael Heap
Chairman