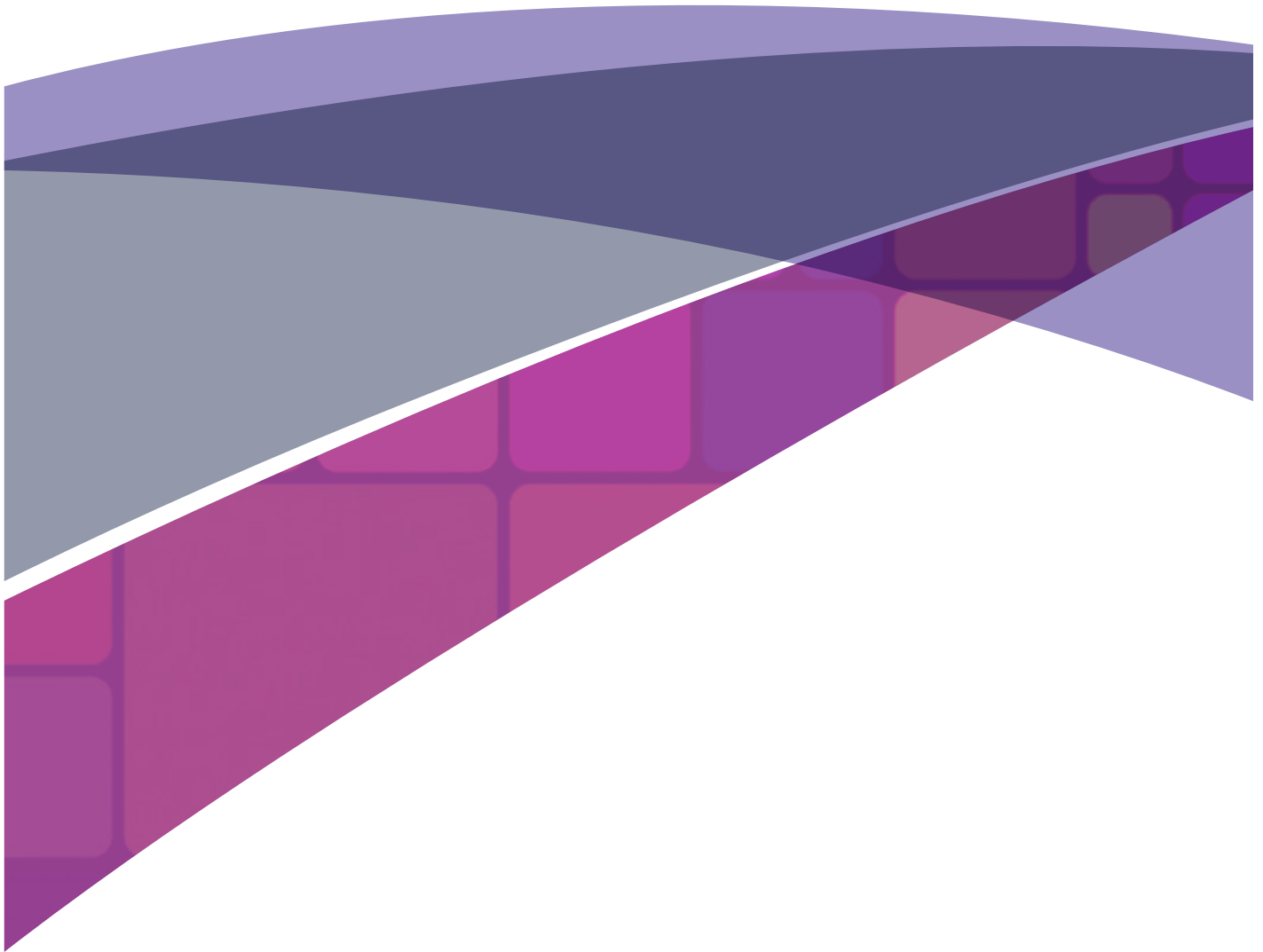




Intellectual
Property
Office

Business guidance on changes to registered design fees

(September 2016)



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Introduction

This guidance covers changes to fees for registered designs introduced by The Registered Design (Fees) Rules 2016 (SI 2016/889).

This guidance has been provided to help designers familiarise themselves with the fee changes which will come into effect on 1 October 2016.

The introduction of an electronic registration service and its associated savings and efficiencies have allowed us to review the fees charged for the registered design service.

1. Changes to fees and structure for applying for a registered design

There are two routes available to apply and pay for a registration (electronic and paper-based form). The registration fees, set out below, have been restructured to provide designers with more choice and flexibility.

Registration fees from 1 October 2016			
	Old fee amount (paper)	New standard fee amount (paper)*	New electronic fee amount
Single application(form number DF2A)	£60 for 1 design	£60 for 1 design	£50 for 1 design
Multiple application	£60 for first and £40 for any subsequent design included in the application	£60 for first and £40 for any subsequent design included in the application	£70 for up to 10 designs £20 for up to (and including) 10 subsequent designs included in the application
Reduction in application fee for deferred publication	-£20	Removed	Removed

There are currently technical restrictions in how many designs can be contained in a multiple application. Please refer to the start page of the application for current limits. If you have questions please direct them to the Intellectual Property Office information centre – contact details on page 5.

Q&A

Can I still apply using the paper form?

Yes, we have retained the paper service to provide choice for our customers.

Do I make savings if I only want to register one design?

Yes, if you use the electronic service you will pay £50 instead of £60 for a single design. The fee for registering one design in paper format remains unchanged.

I have wanted to register more designs but the current cost is restrictive. How do the new fees help me with this?

The cost of registering multiple applications in paper format remains unchanged. By using the electronic service you can benefit from significant reductions in fees. For multiple applications a fee of £70 for up to 10 designs has been introduced, along with an additional fee of £20 for every 10 designs thereafter (e.g. 11– 20, 21– 30).

As an example, for a designer registering 3 designs using the paper-based service the cost will be £140. By using the electronic service the cost will be £70 – saving you £70. For 14 designs, the cost will be £90 – saving you £490.

I'm interested in registering multiple designs through one application.

Do they have to be related to each other?

No. A single application can contain totally unrelated designs.

Can I still defer the publication of my design?

Yes, but we are no longer offering a fee reduction for deferred publication at application stage. We are retaining the current fee of £40 per design for later publication.

2. Reductions to the fees for extension of duration of right in registered design (renewals)

The renewal fees, set out below, have been reduced significantly.

Renewal Fees from 1 October 2016		
Relevant period	Old Fee	New Fee
Second period of five years	£130	£70
Third period of five years	£210	£90
Fourth period of five years	£310	£110
Fifth period of five years	£450	£140

Q&A

Can I still pay my renewal fee early? What fee will I be charged?

You can renew your registered designs 6 months before the expiry date in each relevant 5 year period.

The following scenarios have been provided to help you decide the fees that will need to be paid for renewing a design;

- i. Renewals due **on or before** 30 September 2016 and paid **on or before** 30 September 2016 will pay the **old fee rate**.
- ii. Renewals due **on or before** 30 September 2016 and paid **on or after** 1 October 2016 will pay the **old fee rate**.
- iii. Renewals due **on or after** 1 October 2016 and paid **on or before** 30 September 2016 will pay the **old fee rate**.
- iv. Renewals due **on or after** 1 October 2016 and paid **on or after** 1 October 2016 will pay the **new fee rate**.

If I have paid my renewal early and paid at the old rate, can I ask for a refund?

No, as the new fees do not come into effect until 1 October 2016.

Can I get a refund if my renewal is due on or after 1 October 2016 and I paid on or after 1 October 2016, but I have paid the old fees?

Yes, the renewals team will identify these cases and deal with any adjustments accordingly.

If my renewal is due before 1 October 2016 and I pay late, can I pay the new fees?

No, you will be required to pay the fee as it was on the date your renewal was due, including any additional late payment fees.

What happens if I need to restore my design right? What fees do I pay?

If you wish to restore your design, after the 6 month grace period for payment of renewals, all outstanding fees will be based on the renewal due date (and the relevant scenarios set out above).

3. Changes to other fees

If you wish to **apply for a declaration of invalidity**, the cost is reduced from £50 to £48.

If you wish to **apply for a request for a search of the UK designs register**, the cost is reduced from £25 to £24.

If you wish to **apply for a certified office copy by seal of the Office**, the cost is increased from £22 to £30.

4. Where can I get further information?

The Registered Design (Fees) Rules 2016 (SI 2016/889) and the accompanying Explanatory Notes and The Registered Design Rules 2006.

Any questions arising from this guidance should be directed to the Intellectual Property Office information centre on telephone number **0300 300 2000** or via email at information@ipo.gov.uk.

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Revised: September 2016

DPS-004398



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