



## Research and Evaluation Priorities

Since the Economics, Research and Evidence (ERE) team of the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) was established in 2010, it has published nearly [50 research reports](#) involving leading experts from the UK and around the world. The team was established to:

- Build data on the role of IP in the UK economy;
- Linking IP data to business data in order to better understand incentives and impacts;
- Tackle the gaps in empirical evidence, especially around copyright and designs;
- Supporting IPO policy teams, providing economic analysis on key issues;
- Develop an economic, evidence based approach to inform enforcement policy; and
- Support IP operations through analysis of patent pendency, and demand forecasting.

Over the past 12 months, Pippa Hall (IPO Chief Economist), has worked closely with industry and academia to build support for the IPO's work. She has also promoted the IPO's research priorities with counterparts in the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), the EU Intellectual Property Office, the US Patents and Trade Mark Office (USPTO), the State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO), the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), the Japan Patent Office and IP Australia.

The research priorities will continue to be delivered under three cross cutting policy themes:

- Enforcement and Infringement;
- Innovation and Growth; and
- The Value of Intellectual Property.

This allows ERE to look at big picture issues such as the impact of IP on innovation, and put the spotlight on how IP rights interact and add value to each other and the economy. In addition, this programme of work will need to take account of and consider the policy implications of the UK's decision to leave the EU and the opportunities that provides.

This is a rolling programme of work and whilst a number of the projects listed have been commissioned and will be published over the next 6 to 12 months, the IPO has identified a range of new areas of work which are to be scoped. The IPO welcomes expressions of interest from any potential suppliers in undertaking specific projects, or in helping deliver an achievable and realistic research specification. The IPO is keen to build partnerships with industry and academia wherever possible to maximise the influence that evidence and data can have on IP policy making, nationally and internationally.

In the development of this work the team would like to thank all those that have contributed their time, knowledge and experience to support the IPO's objective of balanced, independent and relevant research. Special thanks go to the IPO's Research Expert Advisory Groups (REAGs), chaired by Professor Charlotte Waelde and Roger Burt.

Research Theme	Research Title	Description of Project
<b>Enforcement and Infringement</b>		
Copyright/ Enforcement	Online Copyright Infringement Tracker	Wave 6 published. Commitment to deliver “Wave” 7 of the OCI tracker in 2017 – looking at trends in consumer behaviours in the digital space. This is being carried out in Australia to build international comparisons. Continuing to look for funding partners going forward.
Enforcement	Methodology for measuring IP Crime	Development of a methodology for measuring the levels of IP Crime, which can be used to influence the standardisation of gathering data internationally.
Enforcement	Streaming/Stream Ripping	IPO to contribute to a Performing Rights Society (PRS) project to better understand the impact of music stream ripping.
Enforcement	3D Printing	A review of 3D Printing and its impact on all IP rights and how 3D printing is progressing. The project will also consider the enforcement issues that are arising from 3D printing, nationally and internationally.
<b>IP Innovation and Growth</b>		
Economics of IP and the Digital Single Market	Copyright Reform in the EU	To better understand the potential impact of proposed changes to the EU’s Digital Single Market on the UK, taking into account the future position of the UK outside the EU.
Patents	Plant Breeders	To inform the Government’s understanding of the UK plant breeding market.
Innovation	Impact of IP on Innovation and Growth	This programme of work will look at the link between IP, innovation and growth – this is a long term programme of work. Topics will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supplementary Patent Certificate system;</li> <li>2. Patent Cooperation Treaty Research;</li> <li>3. Patent Harmonisation; and</li> <li>4. Trade secrets.</li> </ul>
Enforcement	Secret Prior Art/ Registered Designs	To build on the recent Intellectual Property Enterprise Court (IPEC) Patent case counting project to incorporate all IP rights.

Copyright	Music 2025	<p>To work with stakeholders on the outcomes of an IPO event which horizon scanned the issues the music industry and other creative sectors might face in the medium to long term future. The issues to address include:</p> <p><b>Registries &amp; Data</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define and agree a programme of work to consider how to improve information sharing and collaboration between the major data holders; and</li> <li>Define what steps need to be taken to create the right environment for this to happen and create a practical and realistic plan to achieve this.</li> </ol> <p><b>Technical Development &amp; Business Models Research</b> and produce a working paper that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What potential technical solutions might be useful to enable development of future business models, such as blockchain technology; and</li> <li>Suggests how in an increasingly “stream” driven business model revolution artists can be fairly remunerated and the transactions made clear and transparent.</li> </ol>
Designs	Design Rights	Produce an evidence based view on the use of registered and unregistered design in different sectors within the UK and provide international comparisons with countries that have similar industry compositions.
Innovation	IP and Education	The development of a methodology to allow the IPO to evaluate its educational activity.
<b>The Value of IP</b>		
Innovation	The Value of IP	To carry out a review of the valuation landscape to identify best practice, barriers and potential solutions.
Innovation	The Value of IP	To assess how Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME's) recognise and value their IP.
Innovation	Best Place to Patent	The development of a programme of work to better understand what makes the UK the ‘Best Place to Patent’ in Europe and how can this position be maintained.