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**Your reference: xxxx**  
**Application number: xxxx**  
**Date**

Dear Sirs

**Patents Act 1977: Patent Rules 2007**  
**Your application for a patent**

Thank you for your patent application, which we have received. Please read this letter carefully. It might not be in your best interest to proceed with your patent application and pay any further fees.

We note you are not using a professional intellectual property (IP) advisor. Only 4-6% of patent applications which are filed without the help of an IP advisor successfully reach grant. An IP advisor can also help you choose the best form of IP for your innovation.

There are many forms of intellectual property (IP) and it is important that you take the time to choose the one that is right for you. Please read our online advice exploring the benefits of patents, registered designs, trademarks and trade secrets. This can be found at [www.gov.uk/before-you-apply-for-a-patent](http://www.gov.uk/before-you-apply-for-a-patent). Patents are the most difficult form of IP to get and the most expensive to enforce. It can take 5-6 years for a patent application to be granted or refused.

When you've read our advice, you must decide what you want to do. You might have decided another form of protection is better for your invention, e.g. to use trade secrets or be the first to market. If so, you can withdraw your patent application straight away. Email the details to [withdraw@ipo.gov.uk](mailto:withdraw@ipo.gov.uk). We will then refund any search or examination fees you have paid.

Yours faithfully

Formalities Examiner

**Patents Act 1977: Patents Rules 2007  
Report under Section 15A**

Your patent application has been given the filing date of \*\*\*\*\*. It has been given the number GB\*\*\*\*\*.\*.

We have carried out the Preliminary Examination of your application. This first examination only checks the format and appearance of the application. We have no objections to raise against the format and appearance of your application. A later technical examination tests whether your invention could be considered for a patent.

If you want to continue with this patent application, you don't need to do anything now. We will carry out a prior art search of your application shortly. You should expect to receive your search results within 6 months of filing the request. We might send you the results of the search after this date, due to the heavy demand for searches in some subject matter areas.