

FOI Release
Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Intellectual property rights for Investors In People award

Date of release: 15 July 2013

Information request:

Could you please confirm when the IPR for the Investors in People Award no longer applies?
Is the licence and trademark due for re registration and if so when?
When the IP runs out, can anyone apply for ownership/registration?

Information released:

There are a considerable number of "Investors in People" trade marks on the register comprising of National trade marks covering the UK only and a Community Trade Mark covering the whole of the EU (including the UK). The selection of search information at the links below should help you to review the relevant "Investors in People" trade marks:

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/tmcase/Results/1/UK00002326735> is a word only National trade mark still registered and covering the UK. Renewal date is showing on the data base as the 14th March 2023. It has already been renewed once on the 15th March 2013.

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/tmcase/Results/4/EU000206219> is a word and logo Community trade mark covering the whole of the EU which is still registered. The next renewal date is 1 April 2016.

There are a considerable number of other "INVESTORS IN PEOPLE" trade marks on the register which you can find by searching on our website search facility at <http://www.ipo.gov.uk/types/tm/t-os/t-find/tmtext.htm> .

All of the marks appear to be in common ownership, namely the UK Commission for Employment and Skills.

Trade Marks are renewable indefinitely; if the required forms and fees are submitted within the relevant time periods they can remain on the register. If you would like to seek permission to use the term or are interested in how to qualify for using the term you could consider seeking the consent of the owner. If you click on one of the hyperlinks above you will find the full address notified to us and also the name of their representative. Alternatively, the Investors in People information website can be found at <http://www.investorsinpeople.co.uk/Home/index.html> which may be of general assistance.

You can apply for whatever trade mark you like. However, it is important to consider the rights of earlier trade mark holders because if you apply for a trade mark which is the same as or similar to an earlier registered mark the holder could launch a successful challenge against your later filed application. This could result in your being unable to register your trade mark and in costs being awarded against you if any counter-challenge you may launch proves unsuccessful.