



Many of you will be surprised no doubt not to have Rosa's words of wisdom on the front page of IP Connect. (She has kindly offered me her slot this month) But, as recent events have shown, it is dangerous to make assumptions. One certainty is that there are many unanswered questions at present. Many of these relate to the future decisions for the United Kingdom, and I cannot answer these.

However, what I can say with certainty, is that I am working with colleagues across Government, with the senior leadership of the IPO and with stakeholders across all IP rights to ensure that the UK IP environment remains world class.

As our Minister for IP pointed out in her speech to the [UNION IP](#), you can continue to expect and demand a professional rights granting service.

The UK IPO will continue to deliver on our work plan to create and maintain an environment that is conducive to the creation and protection of ideas. Our Office will continue to deliver an efficient and quality rights granting service that our customers have come to expect.

On the international stage, we will continue to play a lead role in international IP negotiations and work constructively with our many partners around the world to ensure that inventors, creators, and consumers get the best deal they can.

In the coming weeks and months, our IP Minister will be holding a number of meetings with rights holders and business and the wider IP community to hear thoughts and concerns about the future. We have a new Prime Minister and we will be working hard, in consultation with all of you, to ensure that IP issues are well prepared for the wider decisions which will no doubt then be taken.

My colleagues across the office will be holding many conversations to get your views. I want to take this opportunity to assure you, our door remains open.

John Alty
Chief Executive

“ ...we will continue to play a lead role in international IP negotiations and work constructively with our many partners around the world... ”

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Reactions to news of the EU Referendum:

Baroness Neville-Rolfe, Minister for Intellectual Property, addressed the British group of the Union of European Practitioners in Intellectual Property at their Summer Reception.

On the EU referendum result, Baroness Neville-Rolfe said:

“The UK has one of the world’s best intellectual property environments. The changes that will be triggered by the outcome of last Thursday’s vote will not alter that.

“You can continue to expect outstanding, professionally delivered rights granting services. The UK will continue to be envied around the world for the quality of its enforcement environment. We will continue to lead in international IP discussions. We will continue our work to build an environment that allows innovative and creative businesses across the UK to develop their ideas and exploit them effectively.

“The changes that will come will take time to work through. Nothing will happen immediately. Today, the UK remains a member of the EU and will continue to engage with EU business as normal and be engaged in EU decision-making in the usual way [until Article 50 is invoked].

“When that happens and when we begin the process of negotiating, I will be working to make sure that those negotiations deliver an outcome that is right for British inventors, creators, service providers and consumers.”

Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys

Following the announcement of the EU Referendum result for the UK to leave the European Union, President of The Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys Kate O'Rourke said:

"We would encourage trade mark and registered design owners not to panic – European Union Trade Marks and Registered Community Designs remain valid in the UK and there is no immediate loss of IP protection. There is likely to be no change for at least two years giving intellectual property rights owners plenty of time to plan.

"ITMA will be working hard with key stakeholders including the UK's Intellectual Property Office and Minister for Intellectual Property to

influence the negotiations and ensure the best possible outcomes for owners of intellectual property rights and practitioners in the UK.

"ITMA will advocate for the transition of all EU-based trade mark and design rights to UK-based protection to be simple and cost effective. We will also be calling on the UK Government to ensure that UK practitioners remain entitled to represent clients before the European Union Intellectual Property Office.

"The UK trade mark attorney profession has built up a reputation and trust over decades for the quality of its work, as recognised by the recent grant of our Royal Charter, and that will not diminish and we



**The Institute of
Trade Mark
Attorneys**

are confident the services of our members will remain in demand across the globe.

"At this time we recommend that all trade mark or design rights owners seek advice from their registered trade mark attorney to ensure they are fully prepared and can put in place plans to confirm the continuance of their IP protection."

CIPA President calls for calm: European patents and patent work remain unaffected



The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys has called for calm following the referendum vote to leave the EU and points out that it will be business as usual for at least two years during which time it will work with Government for the best outcome for intellectual property rights holders.

The decision to leave the EU will not affect European patent holders or restrict the ability of UK patent attorneys to carry out European patent work.

The UK's membership of the European patent system is independent of membership of the EU, as is the UK's membership of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Therefore UK patent attorneys can still prosecute European patent applications for all UK and overseas clients. European patent applicants will not lose any rights and patents already obtained via the European patent office are unaffected.

UK patent attorneys can still prosecute Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) patent applications – which provide protection in the applicant's chosen countries – for all UK and overseas clients. PCT patent applicants will not lose any rights.

“ For now UK patent attorneys and registered trade mark attorneys will still be able to perform the same work they do now... ”

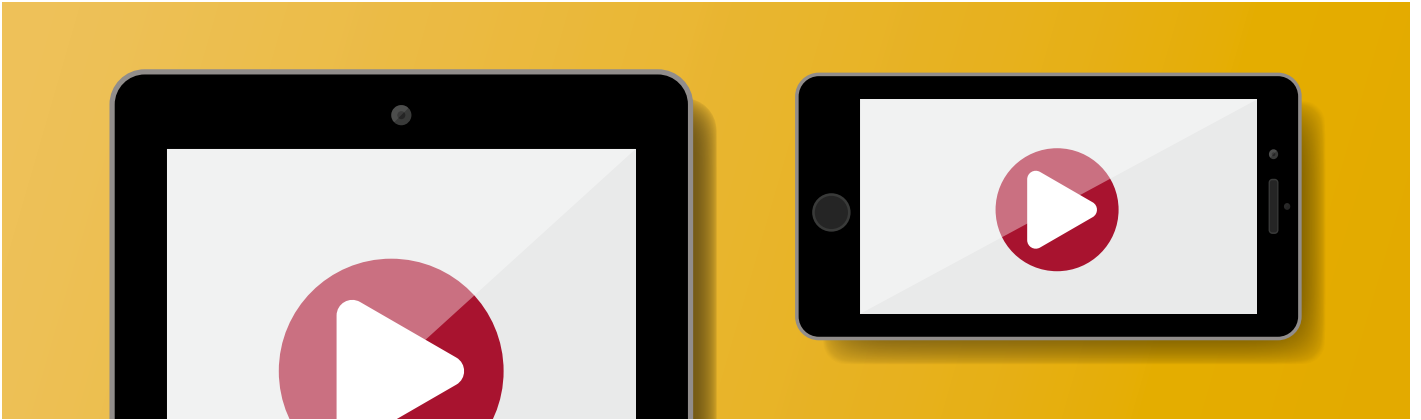
CIPA President Tony Rollins called for calm as there would be business as usual for at least two years.

"The UK will not immediately cease to be a member of the EU," he said.

"The terms of the UK's exit will need to be negotiated and some estimates suggest that this could take up to two years, if not longer.

"For now UK patent attorneys and registered trade mark attorneys will still be able to perform the same work they do now, and UK and overseas IP owners will not lose any IP rights or any access to EU IP registration systems."

Enforcement



Online copyright infringement in decline as consumers turn to streaming

The meteoric rise of streaming services such as Spotify and Netflix may be having a chilling effect on illegal copyright infringement according to new research.

Kantar Media's Online Copyright Infringement Tracker, commissioned by the UK Intellectual Property Office, has shown that over half (52%) of internet users consuming content online now use streaming services while downloading content is becoming comparatively less popular (39%).

Respondents who stream cited convenience and cost as two of the main reasons for doing so. Spotify, the music streaming giant, has seen a 3% rise in new UK users in just 12 months.

The rise of streaming has coincided with a small but significant drop in online copyright infringement. For the first time those consuming content from exclusively legal sources has risen to 44%, a 3% increase since the end of 2015.

Despite this positive trend, online infringement continues to have a major impact of the creative industries, with music and film hit hardest.

Kantar estimates that over 78 million music tracks were accessed illegally online in the past three months with TV shows and films illegally accessed more than 50 million times in the same period. 1 in 20 internet users are exclusively consuming illegal content.

Baroness Neville Rolfe, Minister for Intellectual Property, said:

"Online copyright infringement has been a running sore for the UK's creative industries for far too long. I am extremely pleased to see that there has been a decline in infringement and that consumers appear to be turning towards legitimate streaming en masse.

"There is however more to do. This Government is committed to fighting against IP theft in all its forms and supporting the hard work of our creative industries."

Eddy Leviten, Director General of the Alliance for Intellectual Property, said:

"It is encouraging to see that more UK consumers are choosing legitimate content sources, thereby supporting creators and creative businesses.

"However, illegal content is still finding an outlet in UK homes and that's why we need better collaboration to drive down availability and access to pirate websites. Government has a crucial role to play if the UK's creative industries are to continue to grow."

Prison time for couple running fake BMW accessories scam

A church warden and his wife have received prison sentences after admitting selling fake BMW merchandise worth millions of pounds.

Stephen Anderson, 49, and his wife Elizabeth Anderson, based in Ballymena Northern Ireland, made more than £1 million selling counterfeit BMW goods via online auction site eBay.

The investigation found that the goods, including tyre valve caps, car stickers, and BMW cuff links, were imported regularly from South East Asia via post offices in the East Midlands and Coventry.

The couple's crime spree helped fund a glamorous lifestyle. Two luxury sports cars and vast quantities of designer clothing have been seized by police under the Proceeds of Crime Act. Prosecutors have also requested a confiscation of the couple's assets which have an estimated value of over £1 million.

The Andersons have been sentenced to a combined total of 2 years in prison.

The UK Intellectual Property Office, working closely with BMW, began a covert financial investigation in 2013 which revealed that the church warden and his wife were making more than £40,000 a month.

Baroness Neville Rolfe, Minister for Intellectual Property, said:

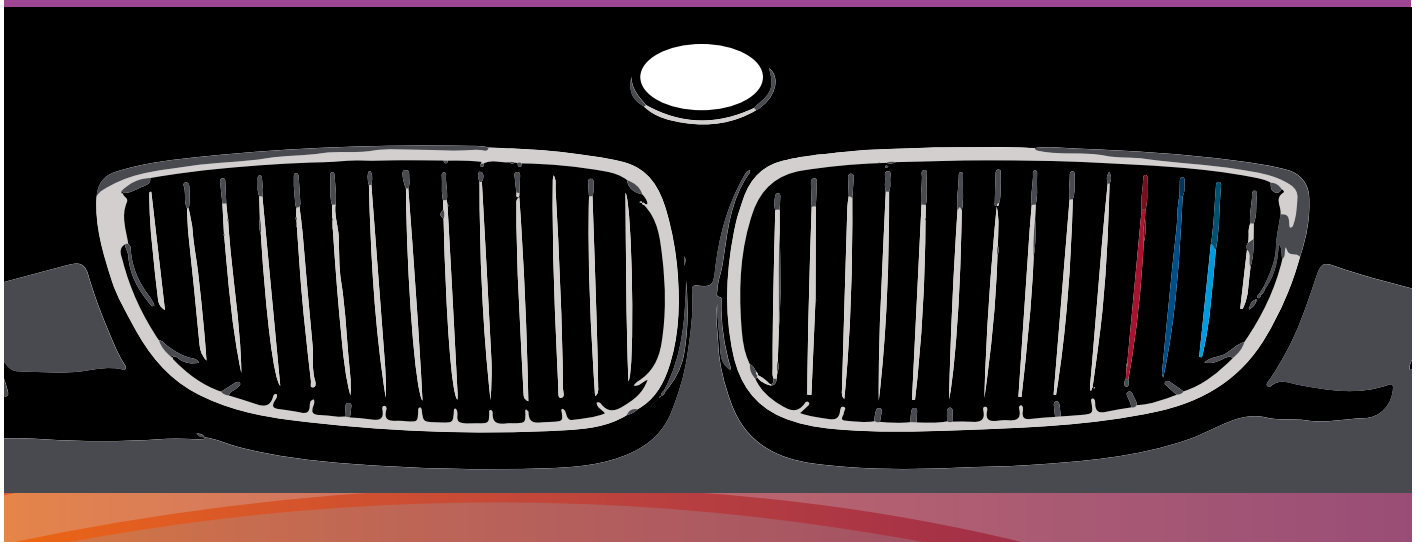
"This is yet another example of the success of intelligence sharing. The partnership between Government, law enforcement, and the private sector is vital in the fight against criminal counterfeiters traders.

"The sale of fake goods online is a challenging area to police, so I am very pleased to see how effective the financial investigation by the IPO's Intelligence Hub has been. The Government is committed to helping legitimate businesses and police forces stamp out illicit trade whenever and wherever it appears."

Detective Chief Inspector Colin Gillis of Police Service Northern Ireland's Reactive and Organised Crime unit, said:

"The market for car products linked to prestige brands is substantial. Those who seek to subvert this market by making and selling counterfeit products are putting jobs at risk and reducing legitimate profits. They are also taking money out of the legitimate economy and its tax revenues which pay for public services.

"We remain committed to working with industry to ensure that producers, workers and the public are protected from fraudsters. I would urge anyone with information about the manufacture, distribution or sale of any counterfeit products to contact police."



The Real McCoy

The Real McCoy event organised by the Scottish Business Resilience Centre (SBRC) in conjunction with the Scottish Anti Illicit crime group (SAICG) took place in Glasgow at the end of May. The aim of the event was to raise awareness of the problems of illicit and counterfeit goods in Scotland to both the business sector and the general public. The day incorporated two approaches with a business conference held in the city chambers and a public event in George square with exhibitors from across a wide range of public and private sectors including the IPO.

The conference was opened by Chief Constable Philip Gormley QPM from Police Scotland and was attended by representatives from across business and law enforcement. Speakers included representatives from enforcement, brands and Government Agencies.

At the public event the IPO where on hand with the Karaoke Shower which was visited by a wide age range of people.

Chief Constable Philip Gormley QPM – Police Scotland



Laurie Puruell, Ian Hiscox, Lee Deakin – IPO

IP (Unjustified Threats) Bill Second Reading

On 15th June, the Second Reading debate on the Intellectual Property (Unjustified Threats) Bill took place in the House of Lords.

The IP (Unjustified Threats) Bill aims to provide greater clarity for right holders and third parties that become involved in IP disputes. Changes introduced by the Bill will help create an IP environment that favours negotiation and settlement rather than litigation. It proposes changes that help clarify

the existing IP threats provisions, and make them more consistent across the relevant IP rights.

Second Reading was the first opportunity to debate the Bill in Parliament. As the Bill follows a special procedure for Law Commission Bills, this Second Reading debate took place in the main Lords Committee Room (“the Moses Room”) rather than on the floor of the House.

Baroness Neville-Rolfe, Minister for IP, opened the debate with an overview of the Bill and the policy aims and principles. Peers responded with support and also to highlight the issues that interest them in the Bill.

The next debate stage of the Bill will be a Special Public Bill Committee, which will take place later this year.

The Second Reading debate is available to view on [Parliament TV](#).

You can [follow the progress of the Bill here](#) or [visit the IPO webpage](#) for more information. On the 15th the IPO published new guidance for those wishing to find out more about the changes proposed in the Bill – find this here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ip-unjustified-threats-bill-guidance>

British IP Day

British IP Day Celebrated in Parliament

London, 6th July 2015: The Alliance for Intellectual Property celebrated the first ever British IP day at its annual reception held in Parliament, at which the Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, gave the key note speech.



This year's event was hosted by Pete Wishart MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Intellectual Property Group, and brought together creators and designers from across the UK with members of the House of Commons and House of Lords to celebrate the huge contribution they make to the UK's economy and cultural life.

Intellectual Property is hugely important to the UK economy whether in the creative industries, branded goods or the manufacturing and design sectors. IP rich industries are driving the economy and are the bedrock of modern, knowledge driven economies such as the UK.

The first ever Alliance IP Champion Award was also presented by Baroness Neville-Rolfe, the Government's IP Minister, to Anti Copying In Design (ACID) for their campaigning work to improve the protection given to design rights. The award was collected by Dids Macdonald OBE, Chief Executive of ACID.

John Whittingdale MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, said:

"The success of our creative industries is built upon strong intellectual property rights. I strongly support the efforts of the Alliance for IP on raising awareness of this. I also look forward to working with them in identifying the opportunities as well as the challenges resulting from Britain leaving the European Union."

I am delighted that the Digital Economy Bill, published yesterday, includes measures which will bring criminal penalties for online copyright infringement into line with physical infringement – ensuring we have the right legal framework in place to support creators and the content they produce."

Baroness Neville-Rolfe, Minister for Intellectual Property, said:

"The UK has one of the best and most respected IP regimes in the world. We have developed an environment in which innovators, designers and the creative sector can thrive – for that we should be proud.

"It is high time we had a day to celebrate the huge role that intellectual property plays in the UK economy. From the pharmaceutical industry to fashion design IP is the lifeblood of UK innovation.

"In the light of recent events I want to assure rights holders that they can continue to expect an outstanding professional service. We will engage with stakeholders and seek to ensure that we remain one of the most envied IP environments in the world."

Commenting on the event, Bill Bush, Chair of the Alliance and Executive Director at The Premier League, which sponsored the event, said:

"Intellectual property is vital to our economy and cultural life. Without its promotion and protection, the ability for our economy to compete internationally would be damaged. It was encouraging to hear Ministers be supportive of our cause at the event, demonstrating their recognition of the importance of IP. A special mention should of course go to ACID who have done so much to protect the rights of thousands of designers, often small businesses and who received the first ever IP Champion Award."

International news



UK and China IP offices extend Patent Prosecution Highway pilot programme

On 1 July 2016 the IPO and the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.) will extend their Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot programme.

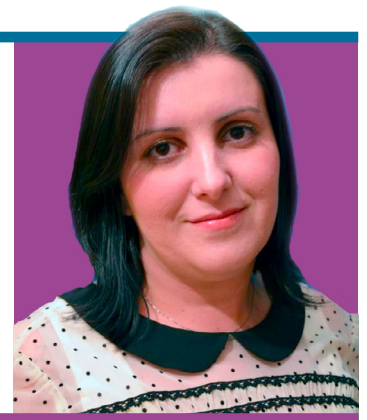
To continue ensuring the benefits of expeditious, inexpensive and high-quality examination for applicants and

the benefits of avoiding duplicative work and reducing the examination workload, the SIPO and the UKIPO will extend the [PPH pilot programme](#) for an indefinite time period. The present documents concerning the requirements and procedures of the PPH pilot programme shall continue to apply.

The PPH allows applicants who have been successful in obtaining a patent at one office to request accelerated processing of a corresponding application at the other. The second office can make use of the work undertaken by the first office to more quickly and efficiently process the application.

Brazil IP Attache news

We are sad to announce that after four years in post, our attaché in Brazil, Sheila Alves has left the Intellectual Property Office. We'd like to thank her for the support she provided to UK businesses and the in-country work she took forward for the Office. We are currently in the process of recruiting a new attaché and will share their details via IP Connect, as well as placing their contact details on our Brazil webpage, as soon as they have taken up the post.



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