



**INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY OFFICE**

[REDACTED]  
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From the Chief Executive and  
Comptroller-General

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 3 November about the Government's intention to consult on the implications of adopting plain packaging for tobacco products. I note that you have various concerns about the potential impacts on intellectual property matters that adopting such a policy would have.

As you are no doubt aware, IPO officials are in discussions about this with our colleagues in the Department of Health who have overall responsibility for the consultation. I would like to assure you, that our 'Health' colleagues are fully aware of all the issues you raise, and of the need to investigate thoroughly the implications for all aspects of the legal framework, including but not restricted to, intellectual property.

The Government has made a public commitment to explore this policy by means of a consultation, and is working steadily towards that aim. It seems to me that, as [REDACTED] had suggested, a meeting would be better conducted once the Government's thinking on these issues has been made public. You will of course have an opportunity to feed in your comments at that stage, and Andy Layton, our Director of Trade Mark and Designs, or I will be happy to meet you once the consultation is published.

Yours sincerely

John Alt

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