

FOI Release
Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Expired brand names or trade marks

Date of release: 29 October 2014

Information request:

I am currently trying to search for food-related brand names and/or trade marks that existed in the market pre-2005, but which have since expired/lapsed, with the potential of reviving them.

Information released:

You can use our website search engine to find expired word marks by entering single letters in the search term box for word marks, working your way from A to Z, and limiting the status indicator to 'dead' marks. For food classes tick boxes 29 and 30; to include beverages add 32 and 33.

Searching for image marks can also be done, but I think it would be more laborious because the description categories cannot be searched in combination.

You can find the search page at: <http://www.ipo.gov.uk/tmtext.htm> . Please note that your hits will probably not include any marks which expired before 1988 when our computer database was established. This means that although you may find some marks which are over 100 years old, they would have been in force until after 1988, while there is no record of the many marks that were registered and expired before 1988.

Lastly, it is important that you should note that although a trade mark may have now expired, there is no guarantee that it is no longer being used in a trade mark sense by the former registered proprietor or any third parties. We would advise that you seek professional advice on the possible implications of using marks previously owned by others.