



Intellectual  
Property  
Office

# WARNING

## Misleading Invoices DON'T BE FOOLED

Customers have alerted us to unsolicited invitations from companies offering services to protect Intellectual Property rights. These involve:

- **Renewal of a trade mark or patent**
  - for fees greatly in excess of official fees.
- **Entries in publications or registers**
  - that can sound very official.
- **Community trade mark filing**
  - an offer to apply for EU-wide trade mark protection

They are often issued as **official-looking invoices**. Many customers have told us they thought the invoices came from an official source and thought they had to use, and pay for, the services offered.

**These companies are not linked to any Government or Community institution**  
**- You are NOT obliged to pay them**

### If in doubt:

Check with your patent or trade mark attorney, solicitor, patent advisor, consultant or inventor-support organisation.

Alternatively contact us

- by email: [information@ipo.gov.uk](mailto:information@ipo.gov.uk)
- or telephone: **0300 300 2000**

Trading Standards offices also offer advice on dealing with unsolicited mail.

For further information, visit:

[www.ipo.gov.uk/warning](http://www.ipo.gov.uk/warning)

## DON'T PAY UNNECESSARY COSTS

**DO NOT PAY** an unsolicited invitation until you have checked what services are being offered and whether it has come from an official source.

The following are the only offices that provide legal protection for designs, patents and trade marks in the UK:

- The Intellectual Property Office (IPO)
- The European Patent Office (EPO)
- The Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM)
- The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)