

12th June 2014

Dr. Ros Lynch,
Director
Copyright & IP Enforcement Directorate
IPO
4 Abbey Orchard Street
London SW1P 4HT.

By e-mail to: ros.lynch@ipo.gov.uk

Dear Ros,

IPO website & notification service

The BCC recognises the value of a central source for all material issued by UK Government, particularly for its consultations and publications, and we support the setting up of www.gov.uk and the parallel legislative site delivered by the National Archive at www.legislation.gov.uk. The BCC also notes that IPO's own site will be moving to www.gov.uk in the near future. These changes do, however, raise some questions and concerns for our members. We are particularly concerned about how existing content from IPO's site will be accessed, how new content on the www.gov.uk site will be arranged and whether IPO will continue to provide a direct notification service for new consultations, publications and policy developments.

IPO's website contains a great deal of historical material which continues to provide important reference and research materials for rights holders, academics and other stakeholders. For ease of use and quick reference, it is helpful that all material on particular topics, or consultations, is readily available in one place and that the current display of that content is according to the chronological development of particular dossiers. It would be helpful to know that IPO's plans include the preservation and continued accessibility of the professional section of the site. Of greatest importance to the BCC and its members are the sections on copyright, IP Policy and research, as well as the availability of this information by dossier, topic or subject matter.

It would also be interesting to know how the structure of the www.gov.uk site will work for the type of content currently carried by IPO's site, that is, will it be searchable by dossier, topic and subject matter as well as by consultation or publication.

We note that IPO is actively developing its own site as a source of information and education materials for users and for rights holders. We welcome this and would be interested to hear whether there are plans to continue with this.

Following on from this, the BCC wants to emphasise how much it values the direct notifications it currently receives from IPO Officials (mainly from CopyrightConsultation@ipo.gov.uk) of the latest consultations, publications and news releases both those issued directly by IPO and, where relevant, from associated departments such as BIS itself. It is hoped that this service will also continue.

The BCC would be pleased to discuss this further with you and your colleagues.

Yours sincerely,



Janet Ibbotson
Chief Executive Officer