

News story: Warning: misleading invoices – don't be fooled

Misleading mail

If you receive an unsolicited invitation, DO NOT PAY IT until you have checked what services are being offered and if it is from an official source.

Changes to the mailings

Following IPO's successful legal action against private organisations offering official-sounding trade mark renewal services, and upheld complaints to the Advertising Standards Authority, customer feedback has changed.

Customer feedback about misleading offers for trade mark renewal services has steadily declined over the past six months. However, the volume of customer feedback about misleading offers to enter trade marks on private official-sounding registers is increasing.

Entries in unofficial publications or 'registers'

The invitations look like official invoices and sometimes include a pre-paid reply envelope.

The two main private organisations that issue these 'registration' offers are currently:

- the World Organization for Trademarks (WOTRA)
- the Intellectual Property Organisation Service (IPOS)

You are under no obligation to pay them.

You should be aware, details of all UK applications and granted patents, registered trade marks and designs, are automatically entered onto our official registers:

The European Patent Office (EPO), World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) all operate similar official registers.

These automatically record all applications for granted patents, and registered trade marks and designs, either filed directly with them, or through us.

WIPO has further information on [unsolicited invitations relating to international patent applications](#).

European Union trade mark filing

Some businesses, who are not regulated legal service providers, are contacting applicants of UK trade marks. They are offering to file a European Union Trade Mark application based on the data present in their UK application.

There is no obligation to file a European Union Trade Mark application to obtain protection in the UK. If however you decide to consider such an offer, you should check:

- whether the person is offering to represent you before EUIPO in the event of any problems with, or objections to, your application – not everyone can do this
- whether the fee quoted by the UK service provider includes the official fees for making a European Union Trade Mark application. If not, how these fees will be paid

What to do if you receive an unsolicited invitation

Check to see what services are being offered and if it is from an official source. You are NOT obliged to pay any fees. These companies are not linked to any government or EU institution.

If you receive a misleading invoice, [we would like to hear about it.](#)

We would like you to include an electronic copy of both the invoice, and the envelope it was received with, in your email for our records. If you also received a pre-paid return envelope, please send a copy of that as well.

If you are in doubt about the mailing, check with your patent or trade mark attorney, solicitor, patent advisor or inventor-support organisation.

You can also contact the [Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys](#) or the [Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys](#) whose members provide general advice on patents, designs and trade marks.

Action Fraud

If you have received an invoice in relation to your trade mark, design or patent and were misled into paying the organisation, please also report it to Action Fraud.

For customers or representatives who have received a misleading invoice, please make an [Information Report to Action Fraud](#) via the online reporting tool.

For customers or representatives who have paid a misleading invoice, please make a [Crime Report to Action Fraud.](#)

Action Fraud is the online reporting portal for all instances of fraud affecting UK citizens and businesses. It is operated by the City of London

Police who are the UK lead Force for the investigation of fraud. Reports are collated and analysed by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB). Depending on a scoring matrix, together with an assessment of available evidence, they can be sent to an individual police force for investigation.

The NFIB also send out industry alerts when new methods or techniques to defraud companies are identified. Whilst we cannot guarantee a response by law enforcement, it would be helpful if you kept the invoice and accompanying envelope(s) in a plastic sleeve and handle it as little as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation.

[Transparency data: Environment Agency organisation structure chart](#)

Updated: Updated with new chart October 2018.

This shows the Environment Agency organisation structure at a high level, including some of our management team for national and area teams.

You can also see a map of our [operational areas](#).

We update the organisation chart every few months.

If you need help contacting the right part of the Environment Agency, please get in touch with our general enquiries team:

General enquiries

National Customer Contact Centre
PO Box 544
Rotherham
S60 1BY

Email
enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Telephone
03708 506 506

Telephone from outside the UK (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm GMT)
+44 (0) 114 282 5312

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

Transparency data: Bovine TB: compensation value tables

Updated: Added the October 2018 compensation table.

Compensation is paid according to published table values for any cattle compulsorily culled to control the spread of the following diseases:

- bovine TB
- brucellosis
- enzootic bovine leukosis

In the [guide to compensation for animals culled to control animal diseases](#), you can read about how the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) gathers information for the tables.

This publication page provides value tables for historical compensation claims and for reference.

[Compensation tables for 2017 and earlier](#) can be found on the National Archives website.

Guidance: Guidance on the scope of and exemptions from the radioactive substances legislation in the UK

Updated: Guidance updated to align with revisions to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 and the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 which implement relevant aspects of European Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom.

The legislative means by which radioactive substances are regulated in the United Kingdom differ according to devolved administration; however, the effects of the legislation are consistent.

This guidance, aimed at environmental regulators and users, sets out:

- the rationale underpinning the exemptions regime for England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- how government intends the regime to be interpreted and implemented
- the means by which the objectives of the exemptions regime should be delivered.

This guidance does not apply to Scotland.

Further information

- [Environmental permitting](#)

Form: Egg marketing: technical inspection report

Updated: Technical inspection report and continuation sheet updated.

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) inspectors carry out checks, in England and Wales, to ensure eggs for the table egg market meet Class A standards and comply European Union legislation.

The inspectors:

- check batches of eggs for quality, weight and labelling
- inspect farms to ensure free range, barn and cage producers comply with welfare, hygiene and registration regulations and that eggs are produced in the system claimed
- check that an annual Salmonella sample is tested as part of the National Control Programme
- collect egg samples to test for residue of medicines

Failure to meet the minimum legal standards for egg quality and weight, may result in a notice of contravention being served on the whole batch of eggs. This prevents further marketing until satisfactory compliance with regulations can be demonstrated.

APHA does not regulate egg production and distribution in Scotland. See the Scottish Government website for information on egg inspections in Scotland.