

# IPO interrupted days



This power is set out in rule 110 of the Patents Rules 2007, rule 75 of the Trade Marks Rules 2008, and rule 40 of the Designs Rules 2006. The notice of interruption will be published in our Journals and displayed at our sites.

The declaration of interrupted days means that most deadlines for:

- patents
- supplementary protection certificates
- trade marks,
- designs, and
- applications for these rights

which fall on an interrupted day will be extended to the next non-interrupted day. To help rights holders, businesses and IP professionals plan ahead, we will provide a minimum of 2 weeks' notice before ending the interrupted days period.

This applies to all time periods set out in the various relevant UK Acts and Rules, and to all non-statutory periods that have been specified by staff.

It does not apply to time periods set out under the various international IP treaties e.g. the Patent Cooperation Treaty, European Patent Convention, or the Madrid system, where the Office may be acting as a Receiving Office. Remedies are available under the various international systems.

This period of interruption does not affect filing dates of IP applications which are filed at the Office and do not claim priority from a previous application. These will be assigned a filing date under the usual rules.

We are taking this action in view of the disruption to applicants' businesses and ability to receive and send post by the current coronavirus pandemic. It is consistent with action taken by other intellectual property offices such as the European Patent Office and the European Union Intellectual Property Office.

Following a review, we have decided to bring the interrupted days period to an end on 29 July. This will mean that the first normal day of operation when all interrupted days deadlines expire will be Thursday 30 July.

This action relaxes the requirements on applicants or rights-holders to act by certain deadlines. To keep work moving and avoid a surge of work once the interruption period ends, please aim to meet original deadlines where possible.

We remain operational and able to conduct all forms of business but there are impacts on certain processes. We are extending the ways in which we can communicate with our customers electronically and advise our customers to use alternatives to post.

Published 27 March 2020

Last updated 22 June 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 22 June 2020

An update to inform customers of the end of interrupted days

2. 29 May 2020

Update to the period of interruption and the next date for review

3. 7 May 2020

We reviewed interrupted days on 7 May and have decided to continue with the period of interruption. We will review again on 28 May. We will give customers advance notice (at least 2 weeks) to plan prior to the end of interrupted days.

4. 22 April 2020

We have confirmed the continuation of our interrupted days period.

5. 27 March 2020

First published.