



And so we're back. After the thrills and spills of what proved to be one of the most closely contested, least predictable General Elections in my memory, IP Connect returns to your in-boxes with a bumper crop of articles about IPO activity. We're not the only returners. Baroness Neville-Rolfe has returned as the Minister responsible for IP within an expanded portfolio.

This embraces elements of the EU Single Market agenda, Corporate Governance, Company Law and Companies House, Postal Affairs, BIS Better regulation issues and

the industrial strategy sector councils for electronics and professional business services. As a Minister for both BIS and DCMS we can expect that she will also be drawn into a plethora of other issues for both Departments in the House of Lords including stewardship of our approach to the Digital Single Market.

Of course, surrounding Baroness Neville-Rolfe we have some new Ministers who will take an interest in what we do. The first article below highlights some key appointments. Some are familiar faces in the IP world, others will need to get to know the agenda and how it connects with their own.

It may take a little time for new Ministers to settle into their new jobs. Against the backdrop of their Manifesto statements that "Britain will be the best place in Europe to innovate, patent new ideas and set up and expand a business," commitments to make Britain the technology centre of Europe and to support our creative industries, we know we can look forward to an active IP agenda. As ever, IP Connect will bring you news on the whole programme as it develops.

Rosa Wilkinson, Director of Innovation and Strategic Communications

Ministerial appointments

Following the recent general election we can confirm the following Ministerial appointments relevant to Intellectual Property:



Baroness Neville-Rolfe has been re-appointed as [Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Intellectual Property](#) and is a joint BIS and DCMS Minister with additional responsibility for DCMS business in the Lords.



Sajid Javid, MP has been appointed [Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and President of the Board of Trade](#)

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The Rt Hon John Whittingdale MP has been appointed Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport



Jo Johnson has been appointed [Minister of State for Universities and Science](#)



Ed Vaizey has been appointed [Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy](#) in a joint role with DCMS and will lead on the Digital Single Market in Europe.



Given the regional interest on getting value from IP rights and enabling the commercialisation of IP, we held a session on the Lambert Toolkit, the IPO'S Fast Forward Competition and guides for universities on intellectual asset management.

We also held a session on awareness raising and we do to raise awareness of IP amongst all ages, including sharing information on the [Music Inc app](#), [Cracking Ideas](#) and the [karaoke shower](#).

The visit proved to be hugely valuable for all the participants and opened up good channels of communication between the UK and ASEAN member states. We hope to keep these dialogues open to share developments both in the UK and in ASEAN and in turn, share these developments with UK businesses to help them when operating in the region.

International

Publication of European Commission Digital Single Market Strategy

The EU Commission's Communication on the Digital Single Market was [published](#) on the 6 May 2015. These proposals set out at a high-level the Commission's priorities for a set of actions to be delivered by the end of 2016. It is built on three pillars: better access for consumers and businesses to digital goods and services across Europe; creating the right conditions and a level playing field for digital networks and innovative services to flourish; maximising the growth potential of the digital economy.

Readers of IP Connect may be particularly interested in the proposals for copyright reform, on which a legislative package is expected to be published by the end of the year. The Digital Single Market will be on the agenda of the European Council meeting on 25-26 June.

ASEAN Regional Study Visit to the UK - Trade marks and Designs

Following John Alty's recent visit to South East Asia, where he met the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) IP offices to discuss the regional work on IP developments and improvements, the UK IPO hosted an inward study visit with 8 of the ASEAN Member States.

This visit brought over delegates from Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, The Philippines, Cambodia, Laos and Burma. It focussed on trade marks and designs and the IPO shared details of the UK systems and processes and review some of the changes and reforms recently undertaken.

Attaché News India

On World IP Day, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised a seminar on 'Leveraging Intellectual Property Rights for a Creative and Innovative India' in Chennai.

A new report on the IP landscape of Tamil Nadu was launched at this event. Funded by the UK IPO, the [report](#), was published by the CII-Tamil Nadu Technology Development and Promotion Centre. It assesses IP trends and awareness levels in Tamil Nadu. It also recommends actions to improve the innovation ecosystem and promote technology commercialisation in the region.

Alongside talks by IP experts from government, academia, and industry, the UK Deputy High Commissioner, Mr Bharat Joshi spoke at the event, commending the report and its findings.

#ExportWeek

New UK Trade and Investment Minister Lord Maude has revealed the Government's goal to double the UK's exports to £1 trillion by 2020 as well as seeing the number of businesses exporting increasing from 200,000 to 300,000. With that in mind, the 6th [Export Week](#) took place between 18 – 22 May, with more than 70 events taking place across the UK.

Organised by UKTI, each event pulled together expertise and advice from a wide range of support services including export finance, E Commerce for international trade and intellectual property.



The IPO attended export events in Brighton, Barnsley, Birmingham and Northamptonshire highlighting the importance of ensuring that every SME has an appropriate IP strategy. With a wide range of free [IP business tools](#), every business can benefit from the advice and support offered by the IPO to identify and protect their assets both in the UK and overseas.

What seems unimportant today might be worth millions of pounds in the future. If you missed Export Week this time round the next one will be taking place in November which will include [Innovate 2015](#).

EPO European Inventor Award 2015



Combating dengue fever with mosquitoes: British scientist-entrepreneur Luke Alphey named finalist for the European Inventor Award 2015

A gene is saving people's lives. Thanks to the ground-breaking research of 51-year-old British scientist Luke Alphey, it is now possible to control the population of disease-carrying mosquitoes in an environmentally-friendly and sustainable way using genetic engineering. He has developed a patented method to control insect pests that damage crops and spread disease.

His invention has been trialed in countries around the world to control the invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that spreads painful infectious diseases such as dengue fever, yellow fever and chikungunya.

For this achievement, the European Patent Office (EPO) has named Luke one of three finalists for the [European Inventor Award 2015](#) in the "Research" category.

EPO President Benoît Battistelli said: "Luke Alphey's research work has resulted in a targeted and environmentally-friendly method to combat dengue fever. His revolutionary method of controlling the spread of the disease could be the weapon needed to contain dengue fever in a targeted way."

Thanks to his pioneering spirit, British scientist Luke Alphey managed to develop the world's first product which can control dengue fever with no toxic chemicals and minimal off-target impact.

The winners of the 10th edition of the annual innovation prize will be announced at a ceremony in Paris on 11 June.

The closing date for votes is 4 June. Cast your vote [here](#) to see Luke pick up the highly acclaimed [Popular Prize](#).

UPC update

Consultation on Court Fees

The Preparatory Committee's [consultation on court fees](#) is now open and closes on the 31st July.

The IPO, working with CIPA and the IP Federation, will host awareness raising events aimed at individuals and businesses to gain a better understanding of the context of the consultation, the details of the various elements and how best to get their views across.

The London event will take place on the **23 June 2015 from 18:00-19:30** at Allen and Overy LLP, One Bishops Square, London, E1 6AD.

This will be an interactive event with a panel of experts discussing the key elements and generating discussion from the audience. Justice Birss, Kevin Mooney and Alan Johnson have all been confirmed for the panel. A live and interactive webinar is also planned; details of how to join on-line will be issued shortly. If you would like to attend the event please RSVP to Tina Alexander at Allen and Overy. (Tina.Alexander@allenoverly.com)

Regional events

We are also exploring the possibility of hosting an event in Scotland and a further event, in the north of England, in either Manchester or Leeds.

If you are interested in attending any of these events, please click one of the links below, for your preferred location, and register your interest with us:

[I would like to go to an event in Scotland;](#)

[I would like to go to an event in Manchester;](#)

[I would like to go to an event in Leeds;](#)

Preparatory Committee

The Preparatory Committee will meet next on 10 July. Prior to this, the Executive Group met on 2 June to discuss possible solutions to the corporate function requirements of the court and also to agree the agenda for the 10 July meeting.

IT

The evaluations are almost complete, with the case management system supplier demonstrations scheduled to conclude by the end of the month and the evaluation consensus meetings scheduled for early June. These demonstrations are a chance for suppliers to show off their platforms and also for the evaluators to ask questions and seek further details and clarity on the proposed solutions.

A number of workshops with users have been confirmed for the Autumn. Further workshops are anticipated. The workshops are aimed at refining requirements and testing the Case Management System.

If you would be interested in further information on these workshops please sign up for the UPC e-filing / case management prototype mailing list by following this link:

<http://eepurl.com/4J609>

Legal

The Legal team presented their plan to the Project Board on 27 May and continue working on two proposed protocols for provisional application and privileges & immunities. We continue to work on a recommendation to the European Patent Litigation Certificate drafting group after the EPLC was discussed but not adopted at the last Preparatory Committee meeting.

The Legal Frameworks Working Group are working on the Rules of Procedure and meet, along with the Expert Drafting Group, on 25 and 26 June. This is ahead of a revised version of the rules coming to the 10 July Preparatory Committee meeting.

HR & Training

The Taskforce attended the joint meeting of the Financial Aspects and HR & Training Working Groups, focused on furthering discussion on the judicial package, in Paris, on 21 May. There was interesting debate on the remuneration package which included a presentation by the ISRP.

Unitary Patent

Discussion on Unitary Patent renewal fees continued within the EPO Select Committee at their meeting on 26 and 27 May. An official Communiqué of the 13th Select Committee meeting is available [here](#):

PIPCU activity



PIPCU urges the public to 'Wake up - don't fake up!

The Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU) [launched an awareness campaign](#) on 18 May warning consumers of the risks posed by fake beauty products.

In a call for consumers to 'Wake up - don't fake up!' the City of London Police unit highlighted the dangers of buying and using counterfeit goods such as make-up, perfume, electrical hair stylers and sun-cream.

In the UK it is estimated that consumers spend at least £90 million every year on fake goods and with the popularity of the internet and online shopping, the production and sale of fake goods on the web is increasing.

Counterfeit beauty products in particular are becoming increasingly common and easily available on auction sites, online market places, rogue websites and social media.

Intellectual Property Minister Baroness Neville-Rolfe said: "Counterfeit goods pose a real threat to public safety, steal ideas from businesses and rip-off consumers. That is why the Government is committed to cracking down on fakes and I am delighted with the energy PIPCU is bringing to tackling this issue.

"Buying illegal goods also runs the risk of supporting other activities of organised crime, from drug smuggling to people trafficking. It is never a victimless crime. Everyone should follow the advice to make sure they don't put themselves and others in danger by buying fake goods."

In the last 18 months, PIPCU has helped to protect consumers from being ripped off online by suspending more than 5,500 websites selling fake luxury branded goods as well as seizing more than £3.5million worth of fake goods.

In addition, the percentage of fake goods seized by customs because of health and safety concerns to consumers has doubled in recent years. These include items such as perfume, make-up and electrical beauty items.

Counterfeit make-up is often produced in un-sanitised and un-hygienic factories and there have been cases where rats' droppings and poison have also been found in the bogus cosmetics.

In 2014 PIPCU dismantled a criminal operation suspected of importing and selling counterfeit goods. The team seized a shipping container which contained what is believed to be more than 4,700 counterfeit versions of one of the UK's most popular beauty brands, including foundation, bronzer, lipgloss, eye shadow and eyebrow pencils.

City of London Police, Detective Superintendent Maria Woodall who oversees the Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU) said: "Many people don't know about the real dangers counterfeit beauty products pose to their health and so that is why this week we are urging the public to Wake up - don't fake up!

"Criminals are exploiting every opportunity to fool customers into buying counterfeits in order for them to make some quick cash - putting peoples' health, homes and lives at risk. Beauty products are meant to enhance your features however the fakes can in fact do quite the opposite. Our general rule is; if it seems too good to be true then it probably is!

PIPCU is a specialist national police unit dedicated to protecting UK industries that produce legitimate, high quality, physical goods and online digital content from intellectual property crime. The operationally independent unit was launched in September 2013 with funding from the Intellectual Property Office (IPO). The unit is based within the Economic Crime Directorate of the City of London Police, the National Policing Lead for Fraud.

Two arrested as part of 'Wake up - don't fake up!' campaign

On 21 May, PIPCU Detectives arrested two people on suspicion of selling fake hair perfume and straighteners online. The operation follows the launch of the unit's "Wake up- don't fake up!" campaign. A 52 year old man and a 46 year old woman were arrested by the City of London Police unit at their home in Hanwell and taken to a local police station for questioning.

They are believed to be running a beauty website selling suspected counterfeit branded perfumes and straighteners. The items were not marked up at huge discounted prices. The hairstylists were listed at between £70 to £185.00 and the perfume ranging from £32- £125.

PIPCU detectives seized approximately 250 items including suspected fake perfumes and straighteners from the property. The pair were arrested on suspicion of breaching Sec. 92 Trade Marks Act 1994, possession of articles for use in Fraud and money Laundering.

Fake electrical beauty goods, such as hair curlers, dryers and straighteners are not subject to the same vigorous safety tests as genuine items and so the bogus product is often very dangerous. It could cause electrocution or overheat and catch fire, potentially burning hair, skin and scalp as well as putting homes and lives at risk.

City of London Police, Detective Superintendent Maria Woodall who oversees the Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU) said "As part of our Wake up – don't fake up campaign we are urging consumers to be aware of counterfeiters when shopping online. Criminals are quick to deceive unsuspecting shoppers, using stock images and professional looking websites but if you do your research and look deeper you can help yourself from becoming a victim.

"The website concerned had some tell tale signs it wasn't the real deal. The site had spelling mistakes and the contact details were minimal – a mobile number and a free email address. If you are unsure about a website – trust your instincts. Genuine luxury items are rarely heavily discounted, so do not rush and be fooled into believing you are getting a good deal."

Three men arrested in counterfeit computer equipment operation

Detectives from the Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU) [recently](#) dismantled a criminal operation suspected of importing, exporting and selling counterfeit CISCO networking products.

Three men were arrested by the City of London Police unit in Sawbridgeworth, Bichanger and Bishops Stortford on suspicion of running a counterfeit business that has sold in excess of \$10 million worth of counterfeit CISCO equipment.

The group are believed to be importing, exporting and selling counterfeit CISCO networking products through a company website and telesales. Between December 2012 and April this year 40 shipments of suspected counterfeit

CISCO products believed to be sent from the suspects' business in the UK to the US, were intercepted by US Customs and Border Protection.

PIPCU has been working collaboratively with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and CISCO's Global Brand Protection Team as part of this ongoing investigation.

The suspects' homes along with a further business address in Bishops Stortford were searched and counterfeit CISCO networking equipment with an estimated value of more than \$1 million was seized.

Detective Inspector Mick Dodge, of the Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit, said, "This operation saw PIPCU dismantle a criminal gang suspected of cheating the computer industry out of millions of pounds."

"CISCO products are used by organisations worldwide to underpin their IT infrastructures. Businesses need to have confidence in their supply chains and be aware of the risks that counterfeit products can have on their networks; potentially compromising integrity and functionality including significant network outages."

PIPCU announces 10 million website diversions

The Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU) has diverted more than 10.3 million illegal music and film sites to an official police warning page since July 2014.

Many of the illegal websites targeted by the unit are then diverted to a PIPCU domain suspension page. This is an official message from the City of London Police warning the user that the website they are trying to access is currently under investigation by PIPCU, the only specialist police unit in the world dedicated to tackling online intellectual property crime.

The page also includes signposts to safe and reliable websites that provide legitimate access to music, films and books, as well as a link to the PIPCU website so users can find out more information about the unit.

Detective Chief Inspector Danny Medlycott, Head of PIPCU, said "Our creative industries produce some of the world's best music, films and TV, however criminals are taking advantage of our talent and exploiting their intellectual property for their own financial gain. PIPCU's unique work to disrupt illegal sites hosting copyrighted content protects tens of thousands of jobs in an industry which is vital to the UK's economy."

IPO Blog

Did you know that the IPO has its own blog on GOV.UK?

The [IPO blog](#) was launched in September 2014 and since then we've been regularly posting on all aspects of IP. The blog covers a wide range of IP related subjects, from trade marks to enforcement and copyright.

Some of the topics covered in the past range from useful IP tips and campaign information, to off-the-wall stories of Cromer Crabs or Boring TV. Our bloggers have been inspired by everything from the Great British Bake Off to Christmas surfing in Croyde. In fact, some of our best posts have talked about IP from personal perspectives. As you can see, almost anything goes.

The blog is updated with new posts a couple of times a week, so there's always something new to read. You can find it at www.ipo.blog.gov.uk. You can also get email notifications of new content by [subscribing](#) to our blog updates, which will bring all our posts directly into your inbox.

Support for business

Video case study: How do I protect the copyright in my book?

The IPO has produced a variety of written and video case studies featuring businesses who have successfully registered their IP. This is part of our work to support SMEs, entrepreneurs and innovators, helping them create value from their IP assets.

[Our latest film](#) focuses on Dan Tyte, an author who talks about protecting his work and the copyright arrangement between him and his publishers, Parthian.

This is the first in a series of films planned as part of the #CreativeIP campaign, which aims to promote some basic top tips for copyright. You can find this video, along with our other case studies at our [YouTube](#) site.



What is the IP Health Check?

The IP Health Check is one of our free '[IP for Business](#)' online support tools. It consists of 9 individual modules on different areas of IP: Copyright, Trade

marks, Designs, Patents, Confidential information, Licensing your IP, Trade marks overseas, Franchising, Enforcement.

The IP Health Check provides you with a tailored confidential report based on your answers to a series of simple questions. The report includes a list of action points to help you protect and exploit your IP rights, guidance on how to put these into practice and links to useful information, websites and other resources.

IP Events

Click [here](#) for a list of forthcoming IP events which may be of interest to you or your clients/members.

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