## Draft email to your local MP

This template email can be sent to your local MP, encouraging them to support CITMA’s campaign to strengthen the UK’s trade mark and IP system.

Where possible, we encourage you to tailor the template to take account of individual circumstances, such as any interactions you may have had with your MP.

If you are unsure of who your local MP is, use the search bar [here](https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP).

Click on the profile of the relevant MP to find their email address.

Please include your address in any correspondence, even if you send the letter via email, as your MP will need to check that you are a constituent.

### Template email:

**Subject:** **Going for growth by supporting the UK’s trade mark and IP system and local jobs**

Dear [xx],

I’m writing to you from [xx] firm, a local business with [xx] employees located at [xx] in your constituency. I’m also a member of the Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys, which represents over 1,700 trade mark and design professionals across the UK. These professionals help to support our IP industry, which contributes £770bn to our GDP each year and is responsible for 1 in 5 UK jobs.

One issue that has increasingly become an issue for us both locally and nationally is that our world-class system is being run down because we have allowed overseas practitioners with little-to-no connection to the UK to represent clients here.

New research shows that the number of foreign-based attorneys/firms appearing before the UK Intellectual Property Office has more than doubled in just three years. They now account for 35% of firms in the top 100 trade mark filers, compared to just 16% in 2019 before our departure from the European Union.

This is clogging our system and causing delays and additional economic costs for British businesses looking to protect their brand and drive much needed growth into the economy. Consumers also suffer because these foreign representatives often lack necessary qualifications and knowledge and are not regulated here.

In addition, UK practitioners are disadvantaged as they are no longer permitted to act before the EU Intellectual Property Office because they are not qualified in, or do not have a genuine place of work in, a member state. The same is true in other key markets such as the US, Canada & the UAE.

By contrast, our relaxed rules mean that practitioners based outside of the UK simply need a UK address for service to act before the UK IPO, even if that is simply a PO Box or virtual address.

We are urging the Government to fix this by introducing new rules to ensure that anyone who appears before the UK Intellectual Property Office is properly regulated and qualified with knowledge of the UK system.

We believe the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill, currently before Parliament, may provide the means to do so. We are requesting that you to write to the new minister responsible for IP, Viscount Camrose, and ask that they act for the benefit of our local innovators.

Making this simple legislative change will level the playing field with our international competitors. It will also free our innovators from red tape, allowing them to get on with creating world-class innovative products that will deliver the growth we so urgently need.

I would be delighted to meet with you in your constituency office to discuss further how you could help to support our local businesses in this way. Please let me know when you will be able to meet. I look forward to your support and to supercharging growth together.

Best wishes

[xx]