

Steve Rowan
Director Tribunals, Trade Marks and
Designs
The Intellectual Property Office

4th August 2017

Dear Steve,

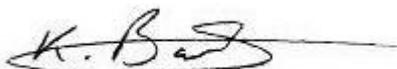
We have provided informal feedback on the new search facility via our representative at the IPO/Attorney meetings and now write to provide our comments more formally.

Our members appreciate the improvements made to the previous trade mark search facility and we appreciate that there is a requirement for consistency with other GOV.UK websites. However, there are certain aspects which our members feel could easily be changed to make the new search facility more user-friendly:

1. The option to display content without tabs should be the default mode, for ease of access to full information.
2. The specifications of goods and/or services should be shown in full as the default mode, for the same reason.
3. For series marks, the default display should be of all marks in the series, for the same reason.
4. The search facility should make it easier to revert from case details to the landing page – that is, the main search page enabling searching by number, owner or keyword. This would be very helpful.
5. Most importantly, the search facility appears to “save” previously searched data, such as an application number, classes or a date range. This means having to delete the data before being able to conduct a new search. It would be very much appreciated if this could be removed, so that the default is always of empty fields. Otherwise there is a risk of, for example, accidentally searching in preselected classes, which is dangerous.

We hope that it will be relatively simple for the IPO to make these changes which will make searching safer for professionals and for less experienced users. We look forward to your confirmation that it will be possible to do so.

Yours sincerely



Keven Bader
Chief Executive