

Barker
Brettell

Intellectual
Property

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BARKER BRETTELL

Comparing us with other firms

We recognise that future clients don't yet know us and want to compare firms before deciding who to use.

There follows some information useful for this purpose.

Also, if you want to know anything about costs, procedures, or who we are, then please just ask.

We offer a free initial scoping meeting.

- **Services** – In addition to preparing and filing applications to protect patents, designs and trade marks in the United Kingdom, European and Worldwide, we also regularly provide services for:
 - Searching for intellectual property, including watching services and freedom to operate opinions, and advising on other people's intellectual property;
 - Oppositions, opposing the grant of other people's intellectual property; and
 - Enforcement of intellectual property – letters before action and acting in the Intellectual Property Enterprise Court.
- **Size** – We are one of the top twenty UK patent and trade mark firms by size, with a strong (top ten) UK client base. We believe that we are the largest UK patent and trade mark firm based outside London.
- **Positioning in the market** – We aim to be good value for money, with excellent personal engagement with clients and interest in them. We will not be the cheapest firm you can find – some smaller firms may suit you more if cost is everything to you. We would be concerned if we felt you could get more value than we deliver for the same money. If you want the same service as we give to many major well-informed UK and overseas clients, then we are an excellent choice.
- **Costs** - Primarily we charge either fixed charges or on an hourly rate basis. Our hourly rates range from £100 per hour to over £350 per hour – a more detailed breakdown of our hourly rates can be obtained upon request.

Costs can be agreed in advance – please do ask if you want to discuss a fixed cost. Factors include:

- our charges (on a time or fixed-cost basis, or a mixture of the two, depending upon the task in hand);
- IP Office fees (in £ Sterling or €); overseas attorney charges (often in local currency or € or US\$);
- currency exchange rate fluctuations and buying currency;
- service charges to convert the cost of working with external service providers.

You may also want to know:

Factors that can alter the cost of services:-

- Currency fluctuations if official fees need to be paid in Euros, or if overseas attorneys need paying in their local currency.
- What the Intellectual Property Office/Trade Mark Registry/Designs Registry/Other Side in contentious proceedings say and do. They can make life harder, and more expensive, or easier and less costly.
- How close to the borderline do you want to fight for? Typically, the more clear blue water between your rights and the existing or background position the easier and less expensive prosecuting an intellectual property right to grant is.
- Take care before incurring overseas costs. It can be like getting on a train – it is not always possible to get off until a specific ‘station’ is reached. Costs can keep coming in from overseas.
- Amount of time taken to work together – time and expertise is what we have to sell and something that takes less time would tend to be less costly than something that takes a lot of time.
- **Flowcharts** – please ask for an email with links to briefing papers, on the cost and timescales to apply for:
 - Patents
 - Trade Marks
 - Registered Designs
- **Regulation** – Barker Brettell LLP is regulated by the Intellectual Property Regulation Board (IPReg), a link to their website is [here](#).
- **Further Information** – there is a lot of good information on the patent, design and trade mark system on the websites of Intellectual Property Offices of the UK, the EU and the European Patent Office. Links are provided [here](#):
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/intellectual-property-office>
 - <https://www.epo.org>
 - <https://euipo.europa.eu/ohimportal/en>
- **Terms of Business** – please ask for an email with a link to our Terms of Business.
- **Other Offices** – our wholly-owned subsidiary company, Barker Brettell Sweden AB, has an office in Stockholm, Sweden. Its activities are not regulated by IPReg. It is useful to have access to an EU presence outside of the United Kingdom, via Barker Brettell Stockholm AB, especially for work before the European Union Intellectual Property Office.

Regulatory Status and Access to Redress:

Barker Brettell LLP is governed by IPReg for the work we do before the UK Intellectual Property Office, and by the EPI for the work it does before the European Patent Office.

The IPReg Rules of Conduct, IPReg Register, Disciplinary Findings (there have only ever been three or four published disciplinary decisions in the 10+ years that IPReg have existed, and none of them relate to us) can be found on the IPReg website [here](#).

It is necessary to have certain standards of training to be regulated by IPReg (i.e. our qualified patent and trade mark attorneys have passed UK Intellectual Property examinations to become qualified. Our European patent attorneys also have qualifications to act before the European patent office.

Barker Brettell LLP is regulated by IPReg for professional conduct and by the legal ombudsman for standards of service for smaller clients.

Complaints Procedure:

We have a complaints procedure – a copy is available upon request.

Professional Indemnity Insurance:

We have a substantial amount of professional indemnity insurance. It insures against negligence claims. More details are available upon request. In addition, IPReg has an additional insurance policy that may provide additional protection in the event that client's money is misused.

Final Practical Comments

Talk to us, meet us, and decide if you like us. Personal relationships are important. We aim to give excellent advice and excellent service.