



## PATENT PROTECTION POST-BREXIT

The UK left the EU on 31 January 2020. However the UK has now entered an 11-month transition which will push back the effects of Brexit until 31 December 2020. Many clients ask us how this will impact their patent rights. In short, **there is no change** and we outline the key points below.

### Can we still handle your European patent work?

Absolutely! The EPO is not an EU body, and is entirely unaffected by Brexit. Nothing changes.

### Will we still be able to attend hearings at the EPO on your behalf?

Yes. There are no significant implications on our ability to travel to and within the EU.

### Do I need to file a UK national patent application as well as a European one?

No.

### Are patent renewals affected in any way?

No. The European patent system is not affected by Brexit in any way, so you do not need to do anything different to what you do now.

### Will anything in UK patent law be affected if the UK leaves the EU without a deal?

Relevant EU legislation will be retained in UK law under the EU Withdrawal Act 2018. This includes, for example, the EU legislation on supplementary protection certificates. Any existing rights and licences in force in the UK will remain in force after 31 October 2019.

### So do you need to change how you do anything?

No. We can continue to handle cases for you in the way that we always have. We will update you should matters change, but rest assured UK/European patents are unaffected by Brexit at present.

If you have any questions, you can email us at [brexit@barkerbrettell.co.uk](mailto:brexit@barkerbrettell.co.uk).