



Gowers Review
of Intellectual Property

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Gowers Review of Intellectual Property – Call for Evidence

Dear Colleague

The Government has asked me to lead an independent review to examine the UK's intellectual property framework.

Intellectual property is crucial to the success of knowledge-based industries, which are increasingly important for the UK's economic competitiveness in the global economy. The IP framework must balance the need to encourage firms and individuals to innovate and invest in new ideas and creative works with the need to ensure that markets remain competitive and that future innovation is not impeded.

The Review will examine whether improvements could be made to the UK's existing IP framework, especially in the context of rapid technological change and globalisation. The Review will report to the Chancellor, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in Autumn 2006, with targeted and practical policy recommendations as appropriate.

I am committed to ensuring that the Review is an open process that takes full account of the views of its stakeholders. As such, I am writing to invite you or your organisation to submit evidence to the Review team. This letter is being sent to all those who have already contacted us through our website, and a large number of key contacts across a range of industry sectors, including scientific, high-tech, manufacturing, media and creative industries, as well as public sector and third sector bodies, relevant industry associations, inventors' bodies, consumer groups, experts in corporate finance and venture capital, the legal profession, and leading economists and other academics in the field. This letter is also available on the Review website www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/gowers.

In the accompanying paper, I have outlined the issues on which I would particularly like to hear your views and supporting evidence, though please raise other issues if you wish. I recognise that responding to this call for evidence may be an onerous task, but please note that you need not respond to those issues which are not relevant to you. Your input will be of great value to the Review team and the evidence submitted in response to this letter will help to shape the direction that our work takes during the coming months.

We would be grateful if you could send your submission to the Review team by Friday 21 April 2006. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your input into this important work.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Gowers