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The Knowledge Network

Gowers Review of Intellectual Property
Zone 4/E1
HM Treasury
1, Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

21 April 2006

Dear Mr Gowers,

Re: Gowers Review of Intellectual Property

The Institution of Engineering and Technology has in excess of 160,000 members worldwide drawn from a broad range of science and engineering disciplines. The membership represents a wide range of expertise, from technical experts to business leaders, encompassing a wealth of professional experience and knowledge, independent of commercial interests. This letter has been prepared on behalf of the Institution's Trustees.

It is the Institution's experience that newly qualified science and engineering graduates commonly lack an appreciation of intellectual property rights (IPR). Typically they do not understand the various types of registerable, and unregistrable, IPR; the applicability of each IPR type; corporate and personal ownership distinctions; and the benefits and obligations which IPR bring to an enterprise.

This situation is viewed as being to the detriment of the UK's progression to being a knowledge economy. The Institution believes it would be beneficial if your review brought attention to the desirability that at least tertiary education should include an introduction to, and appreciation of, IPR. Whilst this is considered particularly important in science and engineering undergraduate courses this should not be exclusive as it is recognised that IPR affects all aspects of creativity, and thus the whole knowledge economy, inclusive of the arts.

If you require further information or amplification of any aspect of this submission then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Graham A Paterson
Head of Policy