

Dear Sirs,

I have a few short remarks on this paper:

General Questions 1: How IP is awarded

- a) Of course there are barriers due to complexity, but it would be hard to make patents/IP simpler without dumbing them down so much as to make them useless.
- b) The UKPO guide book telling you how to write a patent spec' is very good.
- c) Agents have to be skilled and cunning, that is why they are expensive.
- d) The UK is cheap, and its examiners pragmatic; making for cheap prosecution costs; as opposed to endless tedious arguments in the US and Europe. US and EP examiners are hopelessly ignorant and awkward, not understanding simple terms like "bump stop" or "sandwich PTO". We spent £9000 trying to convince a US ex'r that a longitudinal engine power train was substantively different to a transverse engine power train. He only caved in after we spent another £3700 on an appeal. This is a scandalous waste of money!
- f) I have never seen the point made, that applicants would always do well to employ an agent skilled in the technological field of their invention - rather than just choosing through the Yellow Pages! My experience is that a scientist drafting engineering patents is a waste of money; an expensively drafted patent which does not confer the required protection leaves a nasty taste in the applicant's mouth and/or wallet.
- h) Many SME's couldn't afford to sue infringers. Who could back them up?

Specific issues: utility patents

These are always troublesome, because they are not properly searched (somebody in Australia patented the wheel to prove this point). No room for a simpler patent in UK.

*Best regards*

Ken Strachan