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## Every Little Counts! - Upcoming Changes in Official Fees at the UK-IPO

### Trade Mark Application Fee Reduced

As from first October the official application fee for trade mark registrations will be reduced from £200 to £170. Not a huge reduction, but in the current climate a welcome one. The reduction follows on from the recent and much more significant reduction in fees for CTM applications. A bit of competition between the registration authorities seems to be pushing down prices, which is good news for trade mark owners.

The fee reduction only applies to applications filed using the UK-IPO on-line filing system but, as HGF routinely files applications on-line, the small cost saving will apply in all cases and will be passed on to all HGF clients.

### Other changes

#### Two-stage payment of the Application fee

The IPO is introducing the option of paying the application fee in two stages. The total 'full' fee of £200 is payable, but with £100 on filing an Application and the remaining £100 after examination and acceptance. This is likely to be of marginal benefit to HGF clients – since we do not normally recommend filing applications that are likely to be refused at examination. However, there will be some benefit to this option in borderline cases.

#### Series Applications

It continues to be possible to cover more than one version of a trade mark in a single 'series' application for registration, but the options for doing so have been limited.

An additional official fee will have to be paid if more than 2 trade marks are included in the series and the maximum that can be covered will be 6.

More importantly, it will no longer be possible to divide a series into separate applications in the event that the trade marks included are not accepted as a 'series'.

#### Practice Points:

1. If a UK Trade Mark Application is filed from 1st October you will benefit from the fee reduction. However, there may be advantages in filing under current rules, particularly for 'series' applications. Now is the time to review your upcoming product names.
2. These changes are only part of a number of significant changes to fees and rules over the last 12 months. Existing trade mark rights may be affected and now is a good time to review the whole of a trade mark portfolio.

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