**Summary of IPONZ Technical Focus Group**

**Trade Marks Date of Meeting: 24th August 2018**

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| **Agenda Items** | **Comments** |
| 1. **Office Update** | * **There has been an 8.6% increase in classes from 2016/17 to the 2017/18 year.** * **Fees Review – still ongoing – updates will be provided in due course** * **IPONZ Business Plan was discussed with the following highlighted**   + **Delivering enforcement initiatives.**   + **IPONZ is currently working on more international IP collaborations.**   + **Canada is still looking to join Madrid in 2019.**   + **IPONZ is continuing to support the WIPO exchange program, with an examiner heading to Geneva in September.** * **Public searching: IPONZ still in design phase mode. It is being designed for low IP awareness audiences and will include image recognition software, which will improve results in OneCheck. Hopes to be launched in late 2019.** |
| 1. **Trade Mark Advisory Committee – proposed practice change** | * **Turnaround times and timeliness of responses should be quicker now that only require a quorum of three votes.** * **IPONZ is going to try and get the Committee to talk to the TFG about the process they go through.** |
| 1. **Omnibus Bill and Regulatory Systems Bill update** | * **The Omnibus Bill is still ongoing. The bill and discussion document is hoped to be released this year. There will be an extended period for consultation.** |
| 1. **Update on International Negotiations: EU FTA, RCEP, Pacifica Alliance and CPTPP** | * **EU FTA – The first round of the EU FTA was held in Brussels in July. George Wardle is to provide a website link see what has been proposed.** * **RCEP – It is likely that negotiations will conclude by the end of this year.** * **Pacific Alliance - formal negotiations have already commenced and hope to be concludes by the end of this year. New Zealand is to host a round in October.** * **CPTPP – Submissions closed on the 17 August. The bill contains amendments to enable CCTPP to be ratified and enter into force. There is more information on the website for Parliament. Hopefully the CCTPP will be come into force in 2019 once six parties ratify the agreement.** |
| 1. **Provisional refusal reports – feedback from users** | * **Feedback received included:**   + **The format is difficult and citations should be listed and easily viewable.**   + **Section 26 needs to be mentioned as it ties in with citations.**   + **tailor which sections of the act are included in the report based on objections raised.**   + **A summary of the objections raised in the report’.**   + **use hyperlinks similar to USPTO reports.**   + **Register extract should be included.**   + **Trade Mark case/reference number to be marked in an email that is received to notify you that you have a report.** * **In light of feedback IPONZ is to look at formatting of these reports.** |
| 1. **Requesting revocation of acceptance** | * **Currently can only do so by emailing IPONZ, which is then forwarded to an examiner. Was requested that this should be part of the case management system.** * **Also was mentioned that it should be the office deciding whether to revoke or not.** |
| 1. **Transformation requests** | * **IPONZ noted that there has been an increase of requests for transformation. IPONZ is to look at ways to improve system functionality and/or communication to acknowledge that transformation requests have been lodged.** |
| 1. **Broad specification objections and use of term “featuring”** | * **IPONZ has changed the practice relating to a number of broad specifications terms, such as “retail services” and “computer software”. It was requested for IPONZ to provide suggestions about how such terms should be limited. IPONZ suggested that amendments should specify the nature of the goods and services such as “retail services namely in relation to X” or “computer software in relation to Y”.** The term “featuring” would not be considered to be a sufficient amendment. Amendments such as “retail services featuring X” do not limit the initial term. The term “featuring” is likely to be considered to be non-limiting. * IPONZ write a practice guideline to confirm approach and this be circulated. |
| 1. **Next Meeting** | **15 November 2018** |