

Patent Examination Board (PEB) Three Year Operational Plan (September 2025 – September 2028)

UPDATE – MARCH 2026

Our vision

Our vision is to award qualifications that are recognised as the highest standard within the IP profession.

Our strategic aims

We will achieve our vision by concentrating on three strategic aims:

Aim One	To develop and deliver assessments that are valid, reliable, and fit for purpose.
Aim Two	To provide clear and accessible information to all relevant stakeholders regarding our results and processes.
Aim Three	To ensure, in collaboration with CIPA, the long term financial and operational sustainability of the PEB.

Success

We will measure our success through the following means:

Measure One	Feedback from our stakeholders.
Measure Two	External and internal reviews of the quality of our assessments.
Measure Three	Our financial and operational performance.

Projects

1. *We will engage with IPReg and CIPA to ensure that we are reaccredited to deliver the current FD and FC examinations in 2026 and beyond.*

March 2026 Update: The PEB has been reaccredited to deliver the FD and FC examinations for 2026 and beyond (pending the outcome and implementation of the IPReg Education Review). We will work closely with IPReg to ensure the continuous improvement of our accredited examinations.

2. *We will work with CIPA to review the options for the delivery of the examinations to ensure that the PEB is financially sustainable.*

March 2026 Update: The PEB has agreed a balanced budget for the 2026/27 financial year for the delivery of the FD, FC and ICPA examinations. We will continue to work closely with IPReg to ensure our sustainability.

3. *We will audit our policies and practices in terms of EDI to ensure that we continue to exhibit best practice.*

March 2026 Update: The PEB has undertaken an external review of its Reasonable Adjustments Policy in the context of the IPReg accreditation exercise. This led to minor amendments to the Policy. We will undertake our annual review of all of the PEB's policies in December 2026. At that point, we will consider whether they continue to exhibit best practice in relation to EDI.

4. *We will engage with the IPReg Education Review, which will dictate the future of education and assessment of patent attorneys.*

March 2026 Update: The PEB is engaging fully with the IPReg Education Review. The Chair of the Governance Board is a member of the Expert Advisory Group and attends education provider events on behalf of the PEB. The PEB will submit responses to the Review consultations with stakeholders.

5. *We will work with our stakeholders to better understand the factors influencing examination performance.*

March 2026 Update: The PEB intends to leverage its engagement with the IPReg Education Review to collaborate with others in order to better understand trainee examination performance. We will work with IPReg and CIPA to understand the data and its implications.

6. *We will continue to develop our programme of improvement for the FD examinations in readiness for eventual submission to IPReg for approval (depending upon the outcome of the IPReg Education Review).*

March 2026 Update: The PEB has agreed a process with IPReg for the consideration of any proposed changes to the FD (and FC) examinations, based upon the existing programme of improvement. Pending the outcome of the IPReg Education Review, we will put forward proposed enhancements to the July 2026 meeting with IPReg, in the hope of implementation in 2027.

7. *We will undertake a periodic review exercise for the FC examinations to ensure that the examinations remain valid, reliable and fit for purpose; and that they can be delivered in a financially sustainable manner.*

March 2026 Update: The PEB will undertake a periodic review exercise for the FC examinations in light of the outcomes of the IPReg Education Review. Until the Review is implemented, improvements to the FC examinations will be progressed through the annual review process in collaboration with IPReg.

8. *We will engage with our stakeholders in order that we understand their views on the future direction of education and training of patent attorneys, and in order that we socialise any changes to the examinations.*

March 2026 Update: The PEB continues to engage with stakeholders through the IPReg Education Committee, the 'Informals' and, increasingly, through participation in the IPReg Education Review stakeholder events. As the future direction of education and training becomes clearer, we will be positioned to work closely with others to implement change collaboratively.