



John Alty

John took up post as Chief Executive Officer and Comptroller General of the UK's Intellectual Property Office (IPO) on 15 February 2010.

Most of his career has been spent at the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and its successors. He is currently employed by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), of which the IPO is an Agency.

As CEO of the IPO John is responsible for advising Ministers on all IP policy matters and for the operation of the Office, which grants some 5,000 patents and 40,000 trade marks each year. He is a member of the Administrative Council of the European Patent Office and chair of Group B+ which is an international forum committed to the improvement of the global patent system.

John has wide experience of complex and politically sensitive economic, regulatory and business issues. He worked on competition policy and insurance regulation during the 1990s and was responsible for DTI's interest in manufacturing sectors (2002-5). He has substantial EU and international expertise having spent several years as Director, European Policy, DTI (1998-2002) and as Director General of the Fair Markets Group in the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) (2005-10) with responsibility for labour market, corporate governance, EU single market and trade policy and competition and consumer policy.

His career has included a number of posts working as Private Secretary to Ministers in the DTI: Norman Lamont (1981-83), Tony Newton, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1988), and Ian Lang and Margaret Beckett (1995-7).

John was awarded a CB in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2010 for his contribution to policy towards business and the economy.

John is married to Jane and they have 4 children.

Born and educated in Liverpool he attended Oxford University leaving with a BA in Classics (Latin Greek and Philosophy).