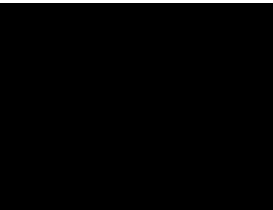


11 July 2019



By email only: 

Dear 

Official Information Act #18.219 - Patent and Trademark Office

1. We refer to your request received on 24 June 2019 for information about whether the Commerce Commission (Commission) has taken any action against the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), or whether it plans to do so.
2. We have treated this as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Our response

3. We have decided to grant your request.
4. The Commission has received eleven complaints about PTO since 2016; two in 2016 and nine in 2019.
5. As of the date of this letter the Commission is not investigating PTO. However, we are still assessing six of the nine complaints received this year; no final decision has been made on these complaints.
6. We are aware that the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ) has issued a warning about similar trademark renewal companies for their renewal notices.¹

¹ <https://www.iponz.govt.nz/news/warning-misleading-invoices/>

7. The Commission warned PTMO Limited about its renewal notices in December 2016.² We understand that PTO and PTMO Limited may be linked, however the entities have different websites and contact details.
8. For completeness, the Commission has received 55 complaints about PTMO Limited.
9. Please note the Commission will be publishing this response to your request on its website. Your personal details will be redacted from the published response.
10. Please do not hesitate to contact us at uia@comcom.govt.nz if you have any questions about this request.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Sheppard
OIA Coordinator

Released under Official Information Act
1982

² <https://comcom.govt.nz/case-register/case-register-entries/ptmo-limited>