**UK Patents: The Basics**

The times and costs given below are estimates for a typical simple invention. The costs include our charges assuming we had dealt with the application from the beginning. The total cost for a typical application to be granted is in the range £7,000 - £12,000 + VAT spread over several years. This does not include the subsequent cost of keeping the granted patent in force by paying renewal fees.

*These costs are typical for cases involving relatively simple technology and straightforward legal issues. Costs for cases in more complex fields, such as software, biotechnology or electronic hardware, are likely to be higher due to the more complicated subject matter and a more difficult legal environment.*

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**TIME - MONTHS**

- **0**
  - Apply for patent
  - Add claims, abstract and search request

- **12**
  - Make foreign applications

- **14 - 16**
  - Search Report issued

- **18**
  - Publication of application and Search Report

- **24**
  - Request examination (pay fee)

- **30**
  - Examination

- **32**
  - Letter from Examiner

- **44**
  - Arguments or amendments submitted
  - Grant

- **45-240**
  - Annual renewal fees

- **240**
  - Patent expires

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**Contact Us**

For more information on Mewburn Ellis LLP and other intellectual property matters, please visit our website at www.mewburn.com; email firstname.lastname@mewburn.com or mail@mewburn.com