

## WHAT IS A PATENT?

- ▶ Patent law is one of the branches of Intellectual Property (IP) law.
- ▶ A patent protects new inventions, by preventing others from making using selling or importing an invention for up to 20 years.

## WHO OWNS THE RIGHT OF A PATENT?

- ▶ A patent belongs to the owner unless they give the rights to someone else.
- ▶ A United Kingdom (UK) patent only allows the rights within the UK. For protection of a patent outside of the UK an individual must apply to patent offices of that country, or they may apply through the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
- ▶ The Patents Act 1977 governs Patent law

## HOW CAN I APPLY FOR PATENT?

- ▶ For something to be patentable. It cannot be something that is obvious. It must be new and it must be something that has never been made public
- ▶ A patent cannot include works of art, scientific theories or mathematical theories
- ▶ To apply for an application for a patent an individual must provide a full description of their invention. They must also providing supporting evidence, or a short abstract listing any technical feature. Once this has been done an individual must complete a Patents Form 1

# PATENT LAW FACT SHEET