



# Patents Act 1977

## 1977 CHAPTER 37

### PART I

#### NEW DOMESTIC LAW

##### *Applications*

#### 16 Publication of application.

- (1) Subject to section 22 below [<sup>F1</sup>and to any prescribed restrictions], where an application has a date of filing, then, as soon as possible after the end of the prescribed period, the comptroller shall, unless the application is withdrawn or refused before preparations for its publication have been completed by the Patent Office, publish it as filed (including not only the original claims but also any amendments of those claims and new claims subsisting immediately before the completion of those preparations) and he may, if so requested by the applicant, publish it as aforesaid during that period, and in either event shall advertise the fact and date of its publication in the journal.
- (2) The comptroller may omit from the specification of a published application for a patent any matter—
  - (a) which in his opinion disparages any person in a way likely to damage him, or
  - (b) the publication or exploitation of which would in his opinion be generally expected to encourage offensive, immoral or anti-social behaviour.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 16(1) inserted (1.10.2005) by [Patents Act 2004 \(c. 16\)](#), s. 17(1), [Sch. 2 para. 6](#); [S.I. 2005/2471](#), art. 2(g)

**Changes to legislation:**

Patents Act 1977, Section 16 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 January 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 56(4)(a)(iiia) and word added by [S.I. 2006/1056 Sch. para. 2\(b\)](#) (This amendment comes into force on the day on which 2005 asp 13, s. 20 comes into force, see art. 1(2)(b))
- s. 63(3)(a) words in s. 63(3) renumbered as s. 63(3)(a) by [2004 c. 16 s. 2\(4\)](#) (Amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 2(4) was repealed (29.4.2006) by S.I. 2006/1028, art. 2(4), Sch. 4)
- s. 63(3)(b) and word inserted by [2004 c. 16 s. 2\(4\)](#) (Amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 2(4) was repealed (29.4.2006) by S.I. 2006/1028, art. 2(4), Sch. 4)