

*These notes refer to the Patents Act 2004 (c.16)
which received Royal Assent on 22nd July 2004*

PATENTS ACT 2004

EXPLANATORY NOTES

SUMMARY

3. This Act amends the Patents Act 1977 (“the 1977 Act”), which is the statute governing the patents system in the UK. The purpose of the Act is three-fold. Firstly, it is intended to bring the UK patents system into line with the revised European Patent Convention which was agreed by Diplomatic Conference in November 2000. Secondly, it introduces into the 1977 Act some measures designed to assist in the enforcement of patent rights and in the resolution of patent disputes between patent proprietors and third parties. Thirdly, it updates the 1977 Act.