



PATENTS ACT 1977

APPLICANT Tik Tok Technologies Ltd

ISSUE whether patent application GB1614145.9 complies
with sections 76(2), 14(3) and 1(2) of the Act

HEARING OFFICER Dr L Cullen

DECISION

Background

- 1 This decision relates to the issue of whether patent application, GB1614145.9, meets the requirements of sections 76(2), 14(3) and 1(2) of the Patents Act 1977 (“the Act”).
- 2 The applicant did not request to attend a hearing. My analysis is based upon the claims filed on 9 June 2022 and the corresponding specification.
- 3 The examiner’s objections are set out in a pre-hearing report dated 19 July 2022 in response to the applicant’s latest arguments and observations presented in a letter dated 9 June 2022.
- 4 For the avoidance of doubt, no further arguments, amendments or auxiliary requests have been filed since the examiner’s pre-hearing report dated 19 July 2022.
- 5 The specification including the claims, the objections raised by the examiner and the applicant’s arguments and observations can all be viewed on IPSUM the Intellectual Property Office’s (IPO) online file inspection service:

<https://www.ipso.gov.uk/p-ipsum.htm>

Subject Matter

- 6 In the context of an online betting system, the claimed invention relates to a program that causes a computerized device to display groups of odds concerning football matches on a chronometric dial and to submit a bet in response to a choice made by a user.

The Law

- 7 The relevant law is defined in sections 76(2), 14(3) and 1(2) of the Act and can be viewed online at the IPO's website¹:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-patent-act-1977>

- 8 The Manual of Patent Practice ('the manual') explains the IPO's practice under the Act and makes helpful references to relevant case law. This manual can be viewed online at the IPO's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/manual-of-patent-practice-mopp>

- 9 In particular, the following paragraphs of the manual are relevant and helpful in relation to the present application:

- a) paragraphs 76.04 to 76.09 which relate to added matter (under section 76(2) of the Act);
- b) paragraphs 14.58 to 14.70 which relate to sufficiency (under section 14(3) of the Act), and
- c) paragraphs 1.33–1.39.3 which relate to the exclusion from patentability of methods of doing business and programs for computers (under section 1(2) of the Act).

- 10 There is no dispute concerning the relevant law and its application to the facts of this application.

Argument and analysis

- 11 I have carefully considered the applicant's arguments set out in the correspondence on file and the relevant law and practice.
- 12 I agree with the examiner's analysis of the issues as set out in the pre-hearing report dated 19 July 2022.
- 13 I find that the application fails to meet the requirements of sections 76(2), 14(3) and 1(2) of the Act.
- 14 I have read the application in full and I find that I am in agreement with the examiner that the entirety of its content concerns a method for doing business and a program for a computer, without making any contribution of a technical nature. As a result, I find that there is no scope for a saving amendment.

¹ See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-patents-act-1977>

Conclusion

15 Patent application GB1614145.9 is refused under section 18(3) of the Act.

Appeal

16 Any appeal must be lodged within 28 days after the date of this decision.

Dr L Cullen

Deputy Director, acting for the Comptroller