Types of Intellectual Property: Designs

Registration of a design protects the appearance of a product, in particular the lines, contours, colours, shape, texture or materials of the product.

A registered design can last for a maximum of 25 years and in that time it may be bought, sold or licensed like any other sort of property. You can licence your design to a manufacturer who will then make the product. You, as well as the manufacturer, will then make profits from the sale of the product.

Design registration gives the owner sole rights to their design. The designer has the right, for the period of registration, to stop others from making, using or selling any product to which the design has been applied. If you designed a new range of mobile phone covers and you registered the designs, you could stop others from using your designs.

source: The Intellectual Property Office

This information sheet is one of a series compiled to help students and graduates that are interested in enterprise and innovation. The series is available from our website below.

Need more help?
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