

Mrs Barbara Roche MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for Small Firms, Trade and Industry



John Randall Esq MP
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31 October 1997

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Dear John



Thank you for your letter of 22 September to Margaret Beckett enclosing a letter from your constituent, Mr Lloyd Sewell of B L Sewell & Associates, GD35, South Bank Technopark, 90 London Road, London, SE1 6LN. The letter has been passed to me for a reply.

I appreciate Mr Sewell's difficulties and frustration in his efforts to get his business started and have contacted the Government Office for London (GOL), who have been in touch with Mr Sewell on a number of occasions. He also raises the issue of his intended business project. On this matter, GOL have contacted the Patent office, who advise that, if Mr Sewell did not register his business idea at the outset, he would have difficulty in substantiating his case. He may find it useful to speak to the Patent Office directly. They can be contacted on 0645 500505.

It is difficult to know what else can be done for Mr Sewell. He appears to have contacted most of the agencies that offer business advice, seeking financial help but to no avail. He has also written to the Prime Minister, David Blunkett and Mr Robert Evans amongst others. He has been advised on previous occasions to rewrite his business plan to enable him to secure a business loan from the bank, but this was also unsuccessful. He has unsuccessfully met with Focus central London TEC endeavouring to secure a loan under the Business 2000 Cross River Scheme. They have recently given him detailed feed back explaining their reasons for rejecting his application.