

**From:** John Mitchell

**Subject:** **SME Innovation Alliance request for a brief meeting to follow up discussion with Concrete Canvas**

**Date:** 28 August 2014 19:30:24 GMT+01:00

**To:** Cable MPST

Dear Dr Cable

I understand that you recently met with Peter Brewin at Concrete Canvas and the subject of the SME Innovation Alliance was discussed, with Peter touching upon the difficulties of enforcing patent protection for SMEs in the UK – a significant barrier to their growth.

I have been working to raise this issue since 1997 and have regularly felt frustrated by a lack of progress on what appears to be a clear deficiency in UK law and a patent system that is damaging technology SME's and UK PLC, to the benefit of large foreign-owned corporations.

The relationship between SMEIA and the UKIPO has often resulted in frustration on both sides. I would very much like to change the dynamic of this relationship so that we can work constructively with government. The objective of our members and the current government are clearly the same – to use British innovation to create growth and exports. SMEIA has a really important role to play in assimilating the experiences of technology SMEs and communicating these often complex issues openly and honestly. The aim is always to support government in creating the ecosystem to enable SMEs to commercialise their innovations successfully, to grow and compete fairly on the international stage while in the process creating growth, jobs and valuable exports.

I believe it would be very constructive if you would give me the opportunity to spend 30 minutes or so with you to clearly and openly explain what SMEIA can offer and in particular the way in which the UK patent system in its current form does not protect British innovations and what can be done to make it world beating.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

John Mitchell  
Chairman – SME Innovation Alliance