

Policy Advisory Board Talkback

Introduction

The challenge of communicating effectively with a constantly evolving membership of 2,700 cannot be underestimated. However, Nominet is committed to sharing information with members in an open and transparent way, and to encouraging members to come forward with their ideas and views on how things should be done.

Within this context, it is important that members are reminded that the Policy Advisory Board (PAB) is their way of exerting influence over the policy decisions that are taken by the Council of Management. And in order to be an effective mouthpiece for the wider membership, it is vital that the PAB strengthens communications between itself and the membership.

2002 Proposal

The Talkback meetings have been an excellent way of breaking down barriers between Nominet and those who attended. Attendance at the events has been disappointing, but those who have attended have felt it worthwhile. In the past the events have been focused on Nominet and not particularly on creating stronger links between the PAB and members.

We feel that it would be appropriate to carry out three PAB Talkback sessions throughout 2002, designed to bring together PAB representatives and the membership. Three other Nominet meetings focusing on a specific issue(s) would be held during the year to supplement the PAB Talkback sessions.

The PAB Talkback would provide a unique opportunity for the PAB to listen to the members' views on particular issues, and to formulate new ideas and ways of tackling subjects that arise. The events may also help to dispel the notion that the PAB does not take account of the views of the membership.

Format

The PAB Talkback could include a mixture of panel discussion, combined with a breakout session to allow the audience to work on generating ideas in small groups. Topics for discussion would be drawn from the then current PAB Agenda, as well as focusing on some of the issues that have been raised on NOM-STEER. The panel would ideally consist of two elected PAB members, one appointed PAB member and one executive director.

Discussion would be generated around current PAB topics with an opportunity for members to then discuss the issues in further depth in small, breakout groups. As with the afternoon session of the AGM 2001, these discussions would be facilitated and the ideas recorded. The ideas from each group would then be fed back into the main group.

The ideas would be recorded on a laptop and relayed on a projector, and then passed back for further discussion at the PAB main meeting. A report from the event would also be posted to the members' area of the web site.

After the session, there would be an opportunity to network with a finger buffet and drinks. (This would not be a sit-down meal as on previous occasions).

Timings and Locations

We plan to hold three PAB events during the year in major conurbations throughout the country. The events would be hosted as follows:

Month	Region	PAB Member
April	London	Richard Almeida Denesh Bhabuta Clive Feather
May	Newcastle	Nominet event/topic
June	Manchester	Peter Gradwell Shirley Wood Adam Beaumont
September	Bristol	Nominet event/topic
October	Edinburgh	Gordon Dick Mike Blanche
November	Birmingham	Nominet event/topic

Your commitment

In order to make the sessions work effectively, we would need to have the commitment of at least 2 elected PAB members to attend each session. We would try and encourage those members living nearest to the location to attend. Nominet would cover the cost of travel and accommodation for the PAB members attending.