

MEETING 16 - 3 OCTOBER 2001

The Regus Centre
Portman Square House
43-45 Portman Square
London
W1H 6HN

Those present:

- Mike Blanche Elected member (Acting Chair)
- Alex Bligh Appointed member - Council of Management
- Gordon Dick Elected member
- Steve Dyer Appointed member - Council of Management
- Clive Feather Elected member
- Peter Gradwell Elected member
- Shirley Wood Elected member

From Nominet by invitation of the PAB: Willie Black, Lesley Cowley, Felicity Hoad.

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Richard Almeida, Richard Baron and Denesh Bhabuta.

2. Code of Practice

A written report prepared by Fay Howard was circulated. All PAB members were encouraged to go to the INCOP web site and complete the online questionnaire.

It was noted that some members had expressed concerns about including the CoP as part of the Tag Holder agreement. There was no further information on this since the planned meetings between the CoP Manager and the DTI/OFT had yet to take place.

The PAB requested the CoP manager to report back on this at the December meeting.

3. Second Level Domains

The Executive reported that it had received a new application for the creation of me.uk from a Third Party Registry which would be processed in accordance with the procedure.

The Executive circulated a document that outlined the changes made to the original application for me.uk that was approved at the last PAB meeting. It was agreed that the 'bad faith' clause should be replaced with the concept of abusive registration (reflecting the new DRS). As a general rule, there should

be a balance between the limitations expressed in the SLD rules and those expressed in the DRS Policy. It was agreed that while there are no limitations on a Registrant having to be a business or not, it was intended that preferential treatment should be given to individuals.

The Executive outlined a new proposed soft start mechanism that was intended to regulate initial demand on the automaton. This would involve a gradually decreased price, and further consultation with the OFT about this mechanism is being sought.

The PAB suggested that during the sunrise period there should be strict policing of Tag Holder credit limits. The executive was asked to investigate potential loopholes in the system for abuse from cancellations made after registration but before payment.

4. Rules

The Executive tabled a new plain English version of rules for the .uk domain and sub domains, and requested further input from a PAB sub committee.

The remit of the sub committee was to resolve any ambiguity in the Rules. In particular, they were requested to clarify whether the sub domains inherit the properties expressed in the main .uk Rules.

It was requested that a list of SLDs in the zone file be forwarded to the PAB.

Clive Feather agreed to chair the sub committee; Alex Bligh, Peter Gradwell, Steve Dyer, Shirley Wood and Denesh Bhabuta to attend. The meeting will take place from 13.00 hours on 18 October 2001 at Nominet's offices.

5. Geographic SLDs

Clive Feather outlined the key findings of the sub committee meeting. Their recommendations were either to create no geographic SLDs or to create a single SLD (such as in.uk) that would encompass all regions.

The PAB agreed to adopt the recommendations of the sub committee, and publish the meeting report as an official PAB position paper. This will be announced to members and put on the Nominet web site.

6. Pricing review

The Executive presented financial forecasts for the next five years, showing a combination of price scenarios with different renewal rates. It was pointed out that financial outcome at the end of the five year period is strongly influenced by the take up of renewals. Since September 1999 saw a distinct change in the Domain Name registration market place, the actual take-up of renewals from September 2001 is not yet known.

It appears from the model that variations such as introducing fees for transfers or tag changes do not make substantial differences to the overall outcome. There was no recommendation of a discount for bulk renewals.

The Executive made specific recommendations for fee changes for memberships and registration/renewals. After substantial discussion, the PAB made changes to these recommendations and agreed to forward them to the CoM for their approval and, if supported by the CoM, to the members for voting. It was agreed that following the CoM meeting a teleconference could be arranged if necessary.

7. Review of appointed organisations

The PAB reviewed the constitution of the appointed organisations.

Richard Baron of the Institute of Directors had tendered his resignation. It was agreed that the PAB would look for a suitable replacement within the IOD. The PAB thanked Richard for his valued input over the past 2 years.

The PAB agreed that the DTI should take over the seat of the Parliamentary IT Committee.

8. Date of meetings

It was agreed that meetings would remain on the first Wednesday of the month, but that they should be moved to the morning with the opportunity to hold sub committee meetings in the afternoon. Henceforth, meetings will be scheduled from 10.00 - 13.00 hours.

9. AOB

i) Excessive use of the Automaton

The Executive reported that certain members are sending excessive traffic to the Automaton, in one case up to 360,000 requests per month to register 42 suspended domain names. It was also noted that Verisign had been experiencing similar problems and that it had limited access to on-line systems. As a result, the Executive planned to table a paper on Automaton abuse in the future.

ii) De-Tagging Q&A

Peter Gradwell reported that a Tag Holders Q&A had been written in response to queries about de-tagging procedures and this was due to be published on the Nominet web site.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 5 December from 10.00 - 13.00 hours.

