

## Rules for the .uk domain and its sub-domains

### 1. Current position

Currently, Nominet has 3 sets of rules as follows:

- Rules for the .uk Domain and sub-domains
- Rules for the .co.uk Second Level Domain
- Rules for the .ltd.uk and .plc.uk Second Level Domains

There are no existing rules for the following Nominet operated Second Level Domains: *net.uk*, *org.uk*, and *.sch.uk*.

### 2. Proposed changes

#### 1. The line of least resistance

The Rules for the .uk Domain and sub-domains need to take account of changes to Nominet's Dispute Resolution Service, which are due to be introduced from 24 September 2001. In brief, this involves the removal of paragraph 3.5, which contains the basis for Nominet's current Dispute Resolution Service. Without such a change, the Rules will conflict with the new DRS Policy and Procedure.

#### 2. Comprehensive review

The executive recognises that the Rules as a whole would benefit from a comprehensive review. The purpose of the review would be to ensure that each Nominet operated SLD had a set of rules, that the mandatory technical requirements are up to date and relevant, and that generally the rules reflect Nominet's objectives and practice. The review is likely to involve extensive input from the PAB, possibly in the form of a sub-committee, and is likely to take some time.

### 3. How can changes to the Rules be affected?

The existing Terms and Conditions for the Registration of Domain Names envisage that the Rules can be altered unilaterally by Nominet. The new Terms and Conditions contain the same ability, subject to "a process of open public consultation".

It is therefore possible for Nominet to change the Rules unilaterally, and any changes will immediately be incorporated into the contract of registration.

#### **4. Recommendation**

It is recommended that, as an interim measure, the Rules for the .uk Domain and sub-domains be amended in the form of the attached draft (which does no more than remove the old paragraph 3.5). This will enable Nominet to have in place Rules which are compatible with the new Dispute Resolution Service in time for its launch in September. It is further recommended that a comprehensive review of the Rules be tabled as a work item for the PAB to be completed over the next 3-6 months.