

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW SLD *.SOC.UK* - REPORT FROM THE NOMINET UK EXECUTIVE TO THE POLICY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING ON 1ST AUGUST 2001

1. INTRODUCTION

An application for a new SLD *.soc.uk* has been submitted by Dr W. Black, in a personal capacity. Dr Black is Chairman and Managing Director of Nominet UK, and a Nominet member.

The application proposes the creation of a new SLD for 'Social and Society use' with the registry operated by Nominet.

2. EVALUATION BY THE EXECUTIVE

The application was received on 20th June 2001. SLD applications are usually assessed by the two Executive Directors of Nominet UK. In the circumstances, this application has been assessed by Lesley Cowley (Operations Director) without involving Dr Black.

In accordance with the published Policy and Procedure, the application has been evaluated in advance of its submission to the PAB, and comments are below.

3. ASSESSMENT OF COMPLETENESS OF THE APPLICATION USING THE CHECKLIST

3.1 Charter Contents

3.1.1. Name - *.soc.uk*

3.1.2. Purpose – covered in Section C 'Draft Charter'. The purpose is 'to provide a namespace for registrations likely to be used for social and society use'.

3.1.3. Eligibility – covered in Section C 'Draft Charter'. Any legal entity could register for non-trading purposes. The application suggests that the automaton rejects registration requests where the applicant name would suggest a trading intent (i.e. Ltd. Trading as etc.).

3.1.4. Application processing – covered in Section A 'Introduction' – first-come, first-served basis.

3.2 The Statement

3.2.1 Community of Interest – covered in Section D 'Statement of Compliance with the policy'. The community of interest would be 'individuals, clubs, associations other such similar entities who have an association with the UK'.

3.2.2 Anticipated number of Registrations - the number of anticipated registrations is not stated. Section D 'Statement of Compliance with the policy' states that 'registrations might be expected to run at several thousand per day'.

- 3.2.3 **Necessity of new SLD** – covered in Section D ‘Statement of Compliance with Policy Rules’, the SLD is considered to be necessary ‘as there is no appropriate SLD for non-trading use by the categories of registrants for which *.soc.uk* is intended’.
- 3.2.4 **Evidence of requirement** – Section D ‘Statement of Compliance with Policy Rules’, the application refers to ‘feedback’ that an appropriate SLD for the targeted community would be welcome. No further evidence of requirement is provided.
- 3.2.5 **Application re-submission** –not applicable.
- 3.3 **Outline Rules** - covered in Section E ‘Outline of Proposed Social and Society SLD Rules’. The rules would be identical to those for *.org.uk* with the addition of automaton restrictions to prevent trading entities registering in the SLD and the right to cancel such registrations.
- 3.4 **Application from Third Party Registries** – not applicable
- 4. **ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATION WITH REGARD TO THE PROCEDURE**
 - 4.1 **Prescribed Form** – the application is in the prescribed form.
 - 4.2 **Application Accompaniments**
 - 4.2.1 **Draft Charter** – included, Section C.
 - 4.2.2 **Statement** – included, Section D.
 - 4.2.3 **Proposed rules** – as *.org.uk* with the two additions (Section E).
 - 4.3 **Additional Accompaniments**
 - 4.3.1 **Contractual terms and conditions** – covered in Section C, Nominet’s terms and conditions would apply.
 - 4.3.2 **Third Party registry’s declaration** – not applicable.
 - 4.3.3 **Detailed financial plans** – not applicable.
 - 4.3.4 **Application fee** – not applicable.
 - 4.4 **Charter**
 - 4.4.1 **Name** – *.soc.uk*
 - 4.4.2 **Criteria for eligibility** – covered in ‘Draft Charter’ p.2. The intention is that any legal entity shall be eligible to register within the SLD, provided the registration complies with Nominet rules and the rules of the SLD.

4.5 Statement

4.5.1. Community of interest – covered in Section D ‘Statement of Compliance with the policy’. The community of interest would be ‘ individuals, clubs, associations other such similar entities who have an association with the UK’

4.5.2. Necessity of new SLD – covered in Section D ‘Statement of Compliance with Policy Rules’, the SLD is considered to be necessary ‘as there is no appropriate SLD for non-trading use by the categories of registrants for which *.soc.uk* is intended’.

4.5.3. Compliance with policy – covered in Section D, ‘Statement of Compliance with the Policy’.

4.6 Outline rules

4.6.1 Contractual terms and conditions – covered in Section C, Nominet’s terms and conditions would apply.

4.6.2 Neutrality – the outline rules are based on the current *.uk* and *.org.uk* rules and include operation on the first-come, first-served basis in a neutral manner.

4.7 Application by proposed third party registries – not applicable

5. DETAILED COMMENTS ARISING FROM THE ASSESSMENT

5.1 Evidence of Requirement - the application does not provide detailed evidence of the requirement for the SLD. However, the Executive are aware of interest expressed by Nominet UK members.

5.2 Number of Registrations – the application does not provide the anticipated total number of registrations. The effect of the proposed open structure of the SLD on registration volumes is not covered, neither are registration or other charges.

5.3 Impact upon Operations – Even with a low percentage take up, the introduction of this SLD would have considerable impact on Nominet’s operational systems. It is thought that the type of registrant likely to register in the SLD, whilst less likely to transfer their registration, would change address more frequently (than *.co.uk* registrants, for example), and would have a greater tendency to register with low cost and low service providers, resulting in a greater administrative and support burden on Nominet operations.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The executive is satisfied that the application provides the material required by the checklist, procedure and policy.

In the view of the executive, the application meets policy rules 3,4,5,6 and 7, therefore, the executive recommend that the PAB approve the creation of this SLD.

At the time of writing, the executive have received another application for a similar namespace in *.uk* and at least one further application is 'in the pipeline'.

The main difference between the two existing applications is regarding the proposed structure of the SLD. This application suggests a free format, whilst the other suggests a firstname, lastname predilection.

The executive recommend that the PAB consider the pros and cons of each approach and that interested parties filing observations on each application may particularly wish to comment on this issue.