

Proposed DRS default transfer process

We are proposing that in undefended DRS cases, the complainant should have the right to a transfer of the domain name registration on payment of a fee of £200 (plus VAT).
Please read our consultation paper for full details of this proposed default transfer process and then answer the questions below.

This document contains respondents between 107 and 107 inclusive.

1. What do you think about our proposal for a default transfer process?

I agree with the proposal

I don't mind one way or the other

I disagree with the proposal

2. Please give your reasons for why you feel this way about the proposal

There are several flaws with the proposal.

A) It's far too easy to issue what one might term "speculative DRS" attempts, since the process is near-free (a few pounds is a trivial sum for a company) and the suggestion is that if a response is not forthcoming from the domain owner FOR ANY REASON you can take control of their domain name for a couple of hundred pounds. This is going to paint a huge target on the back of owners of desirable generic domains, many of whom have spent a huge amount of effort and large sums of money accumulating such portfolios (an activity Nominet admits is a valid business).

B) Scant regard is paid to any issues that might interfere with the notification process. Post takes a long time to reach (and be returned from) overseas registrants, mail gets lost, email addresses go stale, people take extended vacations - I could list a hundred reasons why a response might be delayed or never forthcoming (only one of which constitutes a proactive "choice" on the behalf of the domain owner i.e. the conscious decision not to respond).

If somebody wants to challenge a .com domain, the process is lengthy and costs from US\$1,500 to US\$4,000 - a still trivial sum for a large corporation, but sufficient deterrent against "speculative WIPO" attempts by chancers. By contrast, the proposal puts in place a system whereby somebody can "have a go" at picking up any .co.uk domain name that catches their fancy for the cost of a couple of beers.

In summary, the proposal is deeply flawed and the current system, while not without problems, is infinitely preferable to the proposed alternative.

3. Please give us your contact details

Name

Edwin Hayward

Company Name

.....

Email address