

## DECEMBER 2005 COMMUNIQUÉ

Nominet's board of directors met on 8 December 2005.

### **New Brand and Style**

Nominet's new brand was launched on 5 December 2005. The board thanked all staff, and in particular the technical and communications teams, for all their hard work in making the launch such a success. In particular, the board praised the new Nominet website.

### **Legal Week Awards**

The board warmly congratulated the Legal Department on winning the 2005 Legal Week award for Technology, Media and Telecoms team of the year. Nominet's team, comprising only 6 members of staff, beat HSBC, Financial Times, T-mobile, Telewest and GCap Media to win this award.

### **Internet Governance Forum**

Nominet's board approved a financial contribution of EUR 15,000 to support the setting up of a new Internet Governance Forum. The United Nations agreed to set up the new forum as part of the outcome negotiated at the recent World Summit on the Information Society. Nominet fully supports the intention to create a space for dialogue in which all stakeholders can participate on an equal footing.

### **Australian Litigation**

The board was delighted to hear of the award in Nominet's favour of over AUS\$1,300,000 in damages and additional damages for copyright infringement, bringing to an end the litigation after more than two years. It was noted that the award for additional damages is equal to the highest ever awarded by an Australian court. The defendants, Chesley Rafferty, Bradley Norrish and a number of their companies had illicitly copied millions of records using Nominet's WHOIS database, and had sent misleading notices to over 50,000 .uk registrants.

### **Peter Francis-Macrae**

Nominet's board thanked all members of staff, legal and technical teams, who had helped by giving evidence in the recent trial of Peter Francis-Macrae, who was sentenced to 6 years imprisonment on 16 November 2005. One of the crimes for which Mr Francis-Macrae was convicted was blackmail against Nominet – he had threatened a massive denial of service attack against our servers.

### **itunes.co.uk**

The board congratulated the legal department on its successful defence of the judicial review brought by Benjamin Cohen's Cyberbritain Group Ltd against Nominet. Earlier in the year, the court had rejected the application for judicial review. Although Cyberbritain applied for a further hearing on the matter, it subsequently dropped all claims against Nominet in respect of Dispute Resolution Service decision 02223.

### **ICANN ccNSO**

The board noted the changes being proposed to the ccNSO bylaws in order to allay the concerns of those country code managers who have felt unable to join the ccNSO and await with interest the results of the ICANN Board consideration of the proposals..

### **Operational Statistics**

There were 2,771 active members and 3,777 active tags as at 30 November 2005. During November 2005, 12 new members joined and 31 members resigned (this was the end of the credit cycle for a number of membership invoices). The number of new registrations in November was 116,204. Of 146,076 domain names due for renewal in November, 98,337 were renewed, a renewal rate of 67%. The net growth of the register in November 2005 was 1.67%.