

Nominet's board of directors met on 19 April 2005.

Chairman appointed

The board approved the appointment of Bob Gilbert as chairman of Nominet. Mr Gilbert will take up his appointment in May.

PAB elections

The board noted the outcome of the recent PAB elections, and congratulated Willie Black, Jason Johns, Sebastien Lahtinen and Hazel Pegg on their election.

Two long-standing members, Peter Gradwell and Clive Feather, will now be leaving the PAB. The board thanked both Peter and Clive for their outstanding contribution to the development of policy in .uk, and wished them all the best for the future.

ICANN

The board were pleased to note that:

- * The Chief Executive had made two presentations at the recent ICANN meeting. The first to the wwTLD meeting on 'the management challenges as a registry grows' and the second to the meeting of the Government Advisory Committee and the ccNSO on the UK Public Policy Partnership, which was a joint presentation with the DTI representative.

- * The ccNSO Council has agreed to discuss possible changes to the ccNSO bylaws that would enable .uk and other countries to join the ccNSO.

- * The Chief Executive is a member of the IANA working group

VAT on domain names registered through non-UK tag holders

Following a number of enquiries from registrants and tag holders based outside of the UK, Nominet made formal submissions to Customs and Excise suggesting the registrations and renewals made through non-UK tag holders be VAT exempt.

The board were concerned to note that, following an interim ruling in favour of Nominet's suggestion, Customs and Excise have referred the matter to their policy unit and we now await their final determination.

Operational Statistics

There were 2,771 active members and 3,748 active tags as at 31 March 2005. During March, 20 new members joined and 4 members resigned. The number of new registrations in March was 117,820, and of 127,718 domain names due for renewal, 57% were renewed.