

AUGUST 2007 COMMUNIQUÉ

Nominet's Board of Directors met on 21st August 2007.

Nominet is moving!

On 10th September Nominet moved to Minerva House, Oxford Science Park. A location map can be found here

http://www.nominet.org.uk/digitalAssets/21764_Nominet_Location_Map.pdf. Our phone and fax numbers (and of course website and e-mail addresses) will not change. The Board wished the staff the best of luck for the move.

Financial Times Awards

The Board warmly congratulated Emily Taylor on being included amongst the Financial Times' Innovative Lawyers for 2007, in the category of Legal Innovator of the Year.

IGF/Best Practice Challenge

The Board were pleased that the Best Practice Challenge had yielded strong entries, and that work is progressing on shortlisting and judging.

The winners will be announced at an event in Westminster on 11th October. More details can be found on our website.

Made IT Happen

The Board noted that Emily Taylor had been appointed as a judge in the inaugural Made IT Happen competition. The competition is organized by the Parliamentary Information Technology Committee (PITCOM) and e-skills UK, the Sector Skills Council for IT and Telecoms, and has the support of over 30 MPs. The competition aims to recognise and reward primary schools across the UK who are using technology to help their school or local community. For further details, please see www.e-skills.com/pitcom/madeithappen.

Companies Act 2006

The Board attended a training session on the new Companies Act, and the obligations of Directors under the existing and new legislative regimes.

PAB

On the PAB's advice, the Board approved a policy on phishing:

Because phishing is a criminal activity which can adversely affect Internet users' trust and confidence in the online environment, and because it is highly unlikely to be solved by a single intervention, the PAB encourages Nominet to participate in self- or co-regulatory responses through a series of co-operative activities with other agents to include education of users and improved security measures. The PAB advises Nominet not to duplicate existing efforts by other agencies.

Renewals review

Following an operational review of the positive renewals system, the Board noted that a number of our customers have raised concerns about the way that we issue pro forma invoices for direct renewals if a registrar has not renewed on its customer's behalf.

The Board has agreed in principle that some operational changes should be made, and would like registrars to have the opportunity to comment and give feedback on our proposals before a final decision is made. A request for feedback will be published in due course.

Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) next steps

The Board approved two papers which has been published on our website. The first seeks feedback on the proposal to introduce a default transfer mechanism. The second responds to requests for further detail on the responses to our public consultation earlier in the year. When we have evaluated feedback on the default transfer proposal, we will publish the draft revised DRS policy and procedure, and invite comments on the drafts prior to implementation.

Web-based forum to replace nom-steer

In response to requests from members, the executive has been looking at options for introducing a web-based forum to replace the nom-steer mailing list. The Board approved a mini-consultation which will seek member feedback on an outline proposal.

Yummy Mummy – supporting CLIC Sargent

The Board was pleased to note that members of the senior management and technical teams had agreed to a charity job swap auction to support the charity CLIC Sargent's National Yummy Mummy Week. CLIC Sargent helps children with cancer. Yummy Mummy week runs from 15th September, and more details can be found at <http://www.yummymummy.org.uk/>. An impressive total has been raised.

Operational Statistics

There were 2,900 active members and 4,070 active tags as at 31st July 2007. Since June 2007, 7 new members have joined and 2 members have resigned. The number of new registrations in June 2007 was 135,517 and July 2007 was 142,367. The average renewal rate for the year was 70%. The net growth of the register for the last 12 months was 19%.