

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD REPORT
PORTMAN SQUARE, LONDON, W1
4 June 2003

MEETING 26

Those present:

Richard Almeida	Elected Member
Denesh Bhabuta	Elected Member
Alex Bligh	Appointed Member - Council of Management
Iain Bourne office	Appointed Member - Information Commissioner's office
James Cronin	Elected Member
Sue Daley	Appointed Member - CBI
Steve Dyer	Appointed Member - Council of Management
Clive Feather	Elected Member
Peter Gradwell	Elected Member
Caroline Halcrow	Appointed Member - Office of the E-Envoy
Sebastien Lahtinen	Elected Member
Ben Laurie	Elected Member
Hazel Pegg	Elected Member
Eric Ramage	Appointed Member - ITMA

From Nominet by invitation of the PAB:

Lesley Cowley, Managing Director
Fliss Hoad, Communications Manager
Emily Taylor, Solicitor

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mark Lewis of Companies House.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The meeting report for April was approved.

3. Feedback from CoM on previous PAB recommendations

The Quarterly Report summarising Nominet's key operation and technical developments had been issued to members as requested by the PAB.

The CoM approved the PAB recommendation not to proceed with the wait listing service at the present time.

4. PAB Communications and Consultations Paper

Peter Gradwell presented his paper which met with the approval of the PAB members. He emphasised the fact that the PAB was there to consult primarily with the membership of Nominet.

Resolution:

The PAB recommends that the CoM approve the PAB Communication & Consultation Paper as presented to the meeting, and hereby adopts the paper as its working procedure.

5. me.uk Rules recommendation

Sebastien Lahtinen presented his paper summarising the key findings of the .me.uk rules sub committee.

The paper provoked much discussion, particularly as to whether "the use" of a me.uk domain name should be included in the criteria for whether or not the registration is an abuse of the Rules.

The Rules Dispute Resolution Policy was discussed. Some PAB members felt that people should not have to pay in order to make a complaint about the Rules.

Other discussions looked at whether registrations should be available to individuals and families, whether the new Rules should be applied if a domain name were transferred and whether me.uk should be restricted or completely open.

It was agreed that the issues needed further discussion at sub committee level and Sebastien Lahtinen agreed to chair the sub committee. All those who expressed strong views about me.uk were encouraged to attend. It was also agreed that the subject should be further debated at the AGM.

Resolution:

There was no consensus support for the me.uk rules paper as presented to the meeting, and therefore the PAB remitted the paper back to the subcommittee to reconsider. The subcommittee is to be chaired by Sebastien Lahtinen, and should specifically consider: the issues of families; the issue of registration for others with similar names; of whether use should be examined at all; on whether subdomain should be completely open; on whether correspondence between the name registered and the name of the registrant should be enforced.

6. AGM PAB session

James Cronin had agreed to chair the PAB workshop for the afternoon session of the AGM. James proposed four topic areas for the workshop and it was agreed which members would be responsible for chairing these sessions, as listed below:

Internationalised Domain Names - Steve Dyer
Automaton Abuse - James Cronin
Rules Dispute Procedure - Alex Bligh
Me.uk Rules - Sebastien Lahtinen

7. Revised SLD Policy & Procedure

Emily Taylor gave a presentation which outlined that following an investigation by the Office of Fair Trading, Nominet had worked closely with the OFT to refine the policy and procedure for the creation of new SLDs.

She outlined the main contents of the new policy and procedure and a number of questions and comments were raised during the presentation.

Nominet would shortly be issuing details of the new procedures to members who would be given an opportunity to comment on the proposals.

8. Tag Changes and on-line forms

Hazel Pegg tabled a paper following comments on NOM-STEER. She proposed that Nominet introduced a "handshake" mechanism that would allow Tag Holders to be notified before a domain name is moved to their Tag.

She also proposed that Nominet review and clarify the wording of the on-line form. Her paper was supported by the PAB and was passed to the executive as an operational matter.

Resolution:

The PAB recommended that the CoM implement the Tag Changes procedure as detailed in the PAB paper.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Wednesday 6 August 2003.