



POLICY ADVISORY BODY REPORT
Holiday Inn, 1 Kings Cross Road, London
09 January 2008
MEETING 54

Those present:

Jeremy Beale	Appointed Member – CBI (part)
Andrew Bennett	Elected Member
William Brocklehurst	Appointed Member – CBI
James Conaghan	Elected Member
Gordon Dick	Nominet Board
David Evans	Information Commissioner’s Office
Earl of Erroll	Appointed Member - apComms Group
Clive Feather	Elected Member
Mark Healey	Elected Member
Jarrold Robinson	Elected Member
Geoff Smith	Appointed Member – BERR (part)
Michael Toth	Elected Member

From Nominet by invitation of the PAB:

Phil Kingsland, Director of Communications and Marketing
Marianne Robottom, Policy Executive

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Eric Ramage and Subhi Hashwa. Gordon Dick volunteered to stand in as chair in Eric Ramage’s absence and the PAB appointed him as Acting Chair for the meeting.

2. Approval of the November PAB Meeting Report

The PAB agreed the meeting report was complete subject to one additional sentence being added on domaining, the exact wording of which would be agreed on the PAB mailing list.

3. Matters arising

The PAB received the paper.

4. Board response to PAB resolutions Meeting 53

The PAB received the paper and noted the Board’s response to the resolutions.

5. Trust in the Internet (presentation by Lord Erroll)

Lord Erroll gave a presentation from the perspective of his work on the House of Lords Committee on Personal Internet Safety. The purpose of the report was to stimulate thinking, particularly among the Internet community, about collective action that could be taken to help bolster confidence. Lord Erroll said that the Committee felt that incentives

work better than regulation, and are preferable to a 'train and blame' approach. The House of Lords Committee believes that action, and not more discussion, is required to protect consumer trust in the Internet.

The PAB formed small groups to consider the questions contained in the Executive paper. No formal resolutions were agreed, but the groups made the following comments:

It was suggested that that there would only ever be a loss of confidence in specific areas, not of the whole Internet. It was pointed out that if Nominet was compromised in any way that could have a significant impact on members' businesses.

The group highlighted a number of areas that could have a significant impact on .uk, Nominet and its members including: changes at ICANN, a growing international movement towards bureaucracy, changes to the WHOIS, changes in data breach notification requirements, data retention directives and the European regulatory framework, on which BERR will start consulting in February.

It was also felt that law enforcement with regard to WHOIS data could become an issue and therefore Nominet may wish to consider its options, in advance of any formal requests from external agencies.

6. Domain name re-registration

Gordon Dick declared that he had in the past knowingly registered a very small number of domains shortly after they had expired for clients, but did not use the DAC or any automated process to monitor the drops. Andrew Bennett and Michael Toth also declared that they had registered domains soon after they had been cancelled. None were actively doing this at present.

The PAB agreed that this issue merited full discussion and consideration before any recommendations were given. There was general agreement that:

- a) the PAB is uncomfortable with the discrepancy between registrants' perception and reality on cancelled domain names
- b) the PAB believed that there should be a level playing field for registrars on this issue
- c) the PAB believed that there should be a level playing field for registrants on this issue

However, no formal PAB resolutions were passed and in order to consider practical recommendations beyond these broad statements the PAB requested that a sub-committee is formed. James Conaghan, Michael Toth, Andrew Bennett, Clive Feather and Mark Healey volunteered to participate on a sub-committee. Gordon Dick volunteered to chair it and to send an email on nom-pab proposing some dates for meetings in London and inviting members to join the sub-committee.

7. PAB Performance Review

It was felt that the PAB would benefit from a dedicated brainstorming session on this subject. The Chair agreed to organise this.

8. Work programme 2008

The PAB agreed the following items for its 2008 work programme:

- a) Lock State

- b) .ltd.uk rules
- c) Industry standards
- d) Two letter domains
- e) Registrar parking pages

A member raised concern with regards to a DRS case and some details of what appeared to be an unusual situation that had been published in an online forum. Nominet agreed to investigate the situation and report back to the PAB on what, if any, the policy implications are.

The executive will ensure that the work programme is finalised by the next meeting, and added to the agenda of the brainstorming performance review.

9. Matters arising from nom-steer and pab-suggest

The sub-committee on Domaining should take on board Alex Bligh's comments as per his email to pab-feedback dated 02 January 08.

10. Any other business

Phil Kingsland gave a brief verbal update on the revised DRS proposals following the default transfer consultation. Members asked whether precedents are set via this mechanism. Phil Kingsland agreed to ask and report back to the PAB.

There were a number of questions regarding the Nominet Foundation and whether this was a policy issue or not. It was also noted that some members were not aware of the foundation or the consultation.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 March 2008 at 10.30 am at the Holiday Inn, 1 King's Cross Road, King's Cross.