

2005 PAB election statements

The election statements appear in alphabetical order.

Willie Black, Broomfield Associates

Proposed by: Denesh Bhabuta, Cyberstrider Ltd

Seconded by: James Cronin, Individual Member

Many members may know me as founder, first MD and chairman of Nominet since 1996. Last year I left Nominet to develop other business interests. I am now chairman of the UK Internet Forum and a director of Nominet member Taylor Smith.

I believe that the PAB must concentrate clearly on policy matters and should not become involved in operational matters or duplicate the board's legal role and responsibilities. However, policies cannot always be defined in isolation from these and my unique experience in all aspects of the .uk DNS must surely be indispensable in PAB discussions. The PAB's role is advisory and must remain as such, but I believe that it should be exceptional for the board or executive to reject its advice.

I define policies to be any rules or procedures which have an effect on the nature of the relationship between registrants and Nominet, or on other stakeholders such as trademark owners, users or government. In the near future Nominet must address Internationalized Domain Names; what to do with names pointing at illegal sites; and, the role and powers of tag holders. I maintain reservations about the new SLD process. I have considered these key topics in depth and believe I can competently represent members' and stakeholders' views.

Having announced my intention to leave Nominet, several members expressed regret that my skills, knowledge and experience would be lost. They have asked me to consider standing for the PAB and I now offer myself for election.

Clive Feather, Demon Internet , Thus Plc

Proposed by: Mark Dranse, Thus Plc / Demon

Seconded by: Peter Gradwell, Gradwell dot com

[About the PAB]

I believe the PAB is and should be a clearinghouse for ideas for Nominet's future policies.

Nominet is a member organisation, so policy should always consider the best interests of all the members (not just a subset). However, it also needs to pay attention to other views; an important job of the PAB is to ensure that eventual proposals have properly balanced the issues from all sides.

I don't believe this election statement is the best place to discuss specific issues, but if you want to know my views on any particular topic, I'm happy to talk on either Nom-Steer or private email.

I am always willing to present ideas or papers to the PAB on behalf of members and stakeholders, even if I don't agree with them.

[About me]

I have been involved in the Internet for several years. I have sat on the PAB since its formation, and am also on the Board of ISPA. I have chaired various PAB subcommittees and working groups.

I work on public policy issues for Thus (aka Demon) and am therefore well known around the industry and in government. I can bring to the PAB a broad experience and range of contacts that few others can equal.

I believe that I am uniquely qualified to contribute to the work of the PAB and ask you to re-elect me on that basis.

Angus Hanton, Giant Games Ltd

Proposed by: Paul Westley, Get On The Web Ltd

Seconded by: Angie Barrow, ANY-Web Ltd

New blood and new ideas needed!

Nominet has to keep changing. I would like to help with building the effectiveness of Nominet. The organisation needs lots more new ideas and member-support, especially in resisting the pressure on the DRS policy by the trademark holders. I strongly believe that Nominet should _promote .co.uk _as a brand to UK organisations. The .uk space deserves to be more actively marketed!

Policy preferences: I'm for a higher-profile Nominet, further revisions to DRS to make it fairer, in favour reducing paperwork further, I would like to see the release of two-letter domains, am supportive of ways to get the wider membership more involved, and generally want to help develop a Nominet which is "lean, but highly accessible and visible".

My own background is: A Nominet member for about 7 years and regular contributor at AGMs and Nominet events, I have followed Nom-steer and other discussions over the years so I would mostly not revisit old ground. I have developed many active websites and domain names. Most of my experience is in commercial companies including working as an Investment Manager, being a director of a firm regulated by the Financial Services Authority. My own businesses have several activities outside the ISP/computer world so I hope that I could offer relevant "outside" experience - these activities are in school playground games (hence Giant Games Ltd), a self-storage company and a forestry company.

Jason Johns, The Positive Internet Company Ltd

Proposed by: Neil Levine, Claranet Group

Seconded by: Joachim Jellinek, The Positive Internet Company Ltd

Nominet provides a solid service but the small and medium-sized companies who form the bulk of Nominet's membership need more. Unfortunately, it appears that Nominet's systems are more suited to larger domain resellers.

Selling domain names is not the main business of most of Nominet's members. Sadly, .uk domains are a lot harder to manage than international ones. The automaton is a flexible tool - but unwieldy for the small-scale user. I intend to push for the introduction of a non-email based API and Reseller Web Interface similar to those provided by the better international registrars. These would complement the existing e-mail based systems and allow for enhanced registration and search facilities

On a different note - What are enum and EPP? Knowing the answers and their implications could help your business to plan for the future. I will encourage Nominet to provide the detailed information we need to take full advantage of these (and other) new developments. Nominet is also ideally placed to play a coordinating role in a wider effort to combat Spam and other shared dangers.

If elected I will focus on ensuring that Nominet becomes more responsive to its users' requirements and starts proactively looking for ways to contribute to its members' success. If you feel this could lead to you spending less time worrying about domains and more focusing on your core business then your support would be appreciated.

jasonjohns@positive-internet.com

Sebastien Lahtinen, NetConnex Ltd.

Proposed by: Ross Bray, Plusnet Plc

Seconded by: Brandon Butterworth, BBC

The Policy Advisory Board is an important part of Nominet's governance model and its decisions have a huge impact on members' businesses and other stakeholders.

I am standing for re-election having served two years during which I attended each and every meeting. Since last year, I have also served as PAB Chair.

I am a director of a small hosting company which has been a Nominet member for six years, as well as co-founder of ADSLguide.org.uk, the UK's largest independent broadband ISP review website. This unique combination gives me a number of viewpoints into the effects of policy decisions on different groups.

Two years ago, I listed a number of key issues I felt were important and I am pleased to see many of them being implemented/developed, especially better web systems for tagholders and re-organisation of departments offering dedicated support for tagholders. Some of these changes involve significant restructuring in Nominet systems but as those of you who attended the AGM will know, they are coming soon.

Key issues for 2005-2007:

- * Nominet should remain a not-for-profit organisation supporting both small and large members;

- * It should continue to reduce its operational costs using technology where appropriate

- * Electronic interfaces for transactions which are currently manual (e.g. transfers) with appropriate safeguards
- * Member portal/domain control panel expected soon should be a communication tool to inform members
- * Web-based support ticketing system
- * Support for tagholders outside office hours

More information: <http://www.seb.me.uk/nominet>

I welcome any questions or suggestions to s.lahtinen@ncuk.com

Ben Laurie, The Bunker Secure Hosting Ltd

Proposed by: Ben Laurie, The Bunker Secure Hosting Ltd

Seconded by: James Cronin, Individual Member

I have served on the PAB before, from 2002-2004. My main focus, in general, is on privacy and civil liberties, as well as being an enthusiastic supporter of, and contributor to, Open Source software. If elected, I would, as usual, attempt to keep policies sane for both tagholders and end-users, and curb attempts to add profit without value. I fully understand that this will probably prevent my election but, nevertheless, it is the right thing to do.

Simon Pearce, Xperience Web

Proposed by: Daniel Conlon, Donhost Ltd

Seconded by: Craig Robinson, UKDedicated Ltd

My name is Simon Pearce and I am the director of Xperience Web Hosting Ltd (www.simplewebhosting.co.uk). We are a growing web hosting/web design company based in the Midlands.

We have been registering domain names since 1995 and became a full member of Nominet last year. We currently register around 50 domain names a day and have thousands of satisfied customers across an increasing number of UK-only based web servers.

I personally have been working with the Internet since the early nineties and have watched it grow with admiration; starting out with the CIX conferencing system and the original Demon Internet to now running a similarly successful company.

I have been involved in several different positions with a variety of non-profit making organisations and have a great deal of experience of how they operate and also what Nominet does. I am very keen to continue to promote the excellent service Nominet offers and to provide an even better service to tag holders.

I am very keen to be a part of the team that will continue to improve the efficiency of .uk registrations. Historic changes such as the ending of paper certificates have benefited many. Next we need to get rid of the rest of the paperwork and move to a completely paperless registration system. A step towards 'live' registrations will be a fantastic leap forward and more 'user-friendly' tools to make the lives of tag holders and registrants even easier.

I look forward to receiving your vote!

Hazel Pegg, Glastonbury Online Limited

Proposed by: Denesh Bhabuta, Cyberstrider Ltd

Seconded by: Sebastien Lahtinen, NetConnex Ltd

As the tenth anniversary of Nominet approaches we are entering a new era. Dr Willie Black stepped down as Chairman and his replacement is not yet appointed. As always, changes at the top bring the opportunity for fresh perspectives on old problems. The outstanding Governance Review looks at the Membership/Tagholder structures and also at changes to the composition of, and electoral timetable for, non executive members of the Board of Directors. On a technical level there are many planned changes to the Tagholder & Registrant interfaces with Nominet.

Now is a time to be looking forward with a view to making positive changes that will benefit all stakeholders in the UK internet community. I'd like to remain a part of this process, with my particular emphasis on trying to ensure that smaller Members/Tagholders are not unfairly disadvantaged in any way, whilst recognising the benefits provided to the end-user by the larger Tagholders.

On first joining the PAB it takes time to acclimatise to 'how things are done' and to then find constructive ways of working within that structure. As we enter this period of assessment and change I'd ask that you re-elect me for one more term so that I can use that experience to continue to protect what I see as one of the core values of Nominet - which I paraphrase as 'a company governed by all its Members to further the best interests of all its Stakeholders'.

www.hazel.me.uk/nominet
nominet@hazel.me.uk

2005 PAB election results

NAME OF ORGANISATION: Nominet UK ELECTION OF: Policy Advisory Board 2005

NUMBER TO BE ELECTED: 4 TOTAL VALID VOTE: 356

QUOTA: 71.20 INVALID PAPERS: 1

Candidates		1st Stage	2nd Stage		3rd Stage		4th Stage		5th Stage		6th Stage	
			Surplus of Black @0.33	71.20	Exclusion of Pearce	71.20	Surplus of Lahtinen @0.06	71.20	Exclusion of Feather	71.20	Exclusion of Hanton	71.20
BLACK, Willie	Elected	104	32.80	71.20		71.20		71.20		71.20		71.20
FEATHER, Clive		27	10.23	37.23		37.23	0.36	37.59	37.59	0.00		
HANTON, Angus		36	0.66	36.66	1.33	37.99	0.06	38.05	3.32	41.37	41.37	0
JOHNS, Jason	Elected	44	4.29	48.29	1.00	49.29	0.06	49.35	5.31	54.66	10.66	65.32
LAHTINEN, Sebastien	Elected	66	6.27	72.27		72.27	-1.07	71.20		71.20		71.20
LAURIE, Ben		35	3.30	38.30	1.00	39.30	0.06	39.36	6.84	46.20	5.00	51.20
PEARCE, Simon		5	0.66	5.66	5.66	0						
PEGG, Hazel	Elected	39	7.26	46.26	1.33	47.59	0.48	48.07	17.35	65.42	11.66	77.08
Non-distributable remainders of surpluses			0.13	0.13		0.13	0.05	0.18		0.18		0.18
Non-transferable (preferences exhausted)					1	1		1	4.77	5.77	14.05	19.82
TOTAL		356		356		356		356		356		356