

Using the Dispute Resolution Service for .uk domain names online survey

Submit date : **Feb 14, 2007**

Question 1: Please give us feedback on our proposals that the DRS should include:

- (a) protection for words which have a distinctive character as a result of the use made of them.
- (b) dictionary words which are protected by registered trade marks or good will.

a) I agree with the experts view in this case: "The mere fact that a generic word happens also to be a trade mark cannot lead to the trade mark owner monopolising all uses of the word. Certainly for the purposes of complaints under the DRS Policy there has to be something more." DRS 03316

http://www.nominet.org.uk/digitalAssets/10081_bounce_appeal.pdf b) I believe someone has the right to keep a dictionary word domain IF the person does not have something on the website that infringes the complainant's trademark.

Question 2: Please give us your feedback on our proposal that the DRS should include the following as examples of things that are not necessarily evidence of abuse:

- a general offer to resell a domain name
- sale of traffic (i.e. visitors to the domain name)
- registering many domains

I would like this proposal to be implemented. The important issue here is for Nominet and the DRS experts to acknowledge a domain has a value. Under a first come first serve policy I feel people should be allowed to register as many domain names as they like.

Question 3: Please give us feedback on our proposal that the DRS should include a statement that, where the evidence is finely balanced, the weaker the rights that the complainant has, the less likely it is that abusive registration or use will be inferred.

I believe this proposal could have been used in the following DRS cases: DRS 3747 Finechesses.co.uk http://www.nic.uk/digitalAssets/8799_finecheeses.pdf DRS 03886 SussexSkips.co.uk http://www.nic.uk/digitalAssets/9598_sussexskips.pdf

Question 4: Please tell us which payment option you would prefer and why: no change; a small upfront fee; or loser pays?

2 A fee of 200-250GBP to stop reduce the number of people who make ridiculous claims and so that those who do make claims understand the serious nature of the process.

Question 5: How would you enforce any system of refund (outlined in option 3)? Which section of the community would you imagine would most benefit from a refund system?

No refund. Donate to charity of the winners choice.

Question 6: Do you have any comments about the proposals to change aspects of the procedure, payment, drafting, appeals, expert decisions, abusive registrations or

miscellaneous issues?

**Procedure: Remove the Reply Stage. Payment: If desired respondent can pay.
Drafting: Plain English sounds good. Appeals: Allow new evidence to be submitted
Expert Decision: All sound appropriate.**

Question 7: Do you have any other changes you would like to see within the DRS, or topics within the DRS that you wish to comment on? In particular, if you have any views about any of the following topics which have been the subject of discussion, please let us know:

- Length of submissions and word limits.
- The impact of Internationalised Domain Names, if introduced.
- Whether experts can find a registration abusive for reasons not spelled out in the complaint.
- Whether there have been any practical problems with the treatment of 'Without Prejudice' material.
- Whether experts should be able to represent parties in other disputes, and if not how to keep the quality of experts high.
- Whether the detail of the DRS can be taken out of the contract and updated more regularly.

Make the final display when submitting online use paragraph returns in the layout and in all of the documentation sent out, as it makes it easier to read than one continuous paragraph. Double the word limit to allow for inclusion of original comments and rebuttles in the response. Updates to DRS more regularly would make sense. What experts find abusive: They should not make decisions based on evidence not presented to them i.e. Google Searches, PRSS lookups. Disclaimer: With permission I have used a few quotes from Andrew Bennett's DRS response dated 13/02/07. However I am a Nominet tagholder/stakeholder and fully support these opinions.

Please give us your contact details

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