

Nominet's board of directors met on 21 April 2004.

Board Elections

Following a round of informal consultations with various stakeholders, the board began a thorough evaluation of the election process from the nomination mechanism through to voting rights. It was agreed, however, that it would be inappropriate to rush through any significant changes for this year's election, which will follow the same principles as before.

However, a few minor improvements to the election process were agreed: for example, to extend the election statement word limit; to ask all candidates to provide a suitable and printable picture of themselves; to encourage candidates to provide a link for further information about themselves; and to look into ways by which candidates can have a dialogue with members. The board also agreed that any new process should be agreed and implemented in time for the 2005 AGM. The results of this and other governance issues being reviewed by the board will form the basis for a wide-ranging consultation paper, on which we shall be seeking the views of members and other stakeholders.

Code of Practice

As a result of the continuing dialogue with the members, the board has been reviewing several ideas from the executive team on mechanisms for improving the external image of the domain name registration industry by revisiting some of the ideas and concepts first discussed in the InCoP project. These include setting some improved requirements for becoming a tag holder, more comprehensive training for tag holders, clarification of the issues surrounding re-sellers and a possible accredited tag holder level. The board reiterated its position that whilst it is appropriate for Nominet to consider a code of Practice in relation to the registration of .uk domains it is not appropriate for Nominet to administer a more general Code of Practice for the industry. Nominet remains supportive however of third-party operated Codes of Practice.

Policy Advisory Board

The board reviewed the resolutions from the PAB meeting held on 7 April. A clause-by-clause response will be prepared in due course. The board agreed to maintain an "issues register" to track the status of previous recommendations. The board thanks the PAB for their agreement to the proposed policies on DNSSEC and WHOIS abuse. The Board congratulated Sebastien Lahtinen on his election as PAB Chair and thanked retiring Chairman Peter Gradwell for his excellent Chairmanship.

The PAB has requested, and members have asked, that the tag holder agreement be clarified to make some of the terms more specific, particularly where it would aid enforcement. The board agreed and asked the executive team to carry out a review. The board asked that this review also clarify the procedures for complaints against allegedly non-compliant tag holders, but noted that this overlaps partly with the work on a Code of Practice (see above).

In response to the PAB's query about the .me.uk rules, the board again agreed with the PAB's recommendations and noted that the executive was working on this and that a consultation would take place in due course.

Operational Reports

There were 2,804 active members and 3,591 active tags as at 1 April 2004. During March, 30 new members were added and 17 members resigned. The number of new registrations continues to rise, with 117,556 domain names registered in March and 91,964 renewals invoiced. Members will be pleased to know that the backlog of detagged domain names has now been cleared and that the detagged project is now completed.