

SEPTEMBER 2009 COMMUNIQUÉ

Nominet's Board of Directors met on 2nd September 2009.

Board Matters

- Following elections at the Annual General Meeting, the Board welcomed Nora Nanayakkara and Jonathan Robinson to the company and congratulated Clive Grace on his reappointment. Sebastien Lahtinen was also thanked for his service to the Board since 2007.
- The Board received a presentation from the Director of Finance, and approved the budget for the financial year beginning 1 October 2009.
- Future of the Policy Advisory Body (PAB): the Board noted the ongoing discussions being held by the PAB regarding the future of the PAB and the need for the nature of the PAB to change. The Board confirmed its support for the work undertaken by the PAB to date in this regard and its support for further discussion on improving stakeholder input to policy matters.
- In line with Nominet's mission of making a positive difference to UK Internet users, it was agreed to commission specific research into best practice domain name registration following news stories about fake .uk websites.
- The Board re-affirmed Nominet's stance of protection of the .uk database and zone file data from collation and abuse. Nominet should continue to pursue any abuse of registry data in order to protect .uk stakeholders.
- Governance review: the Board started reviewing all the consultation responses. The implementation plan for Digital Britain was duly noted, and Nominet's strong commitment to self-regulation reiterated. Further discussion by the Board will be required prior to a decision. Next steps will be announced in due course although it was now felt unlikely that the Board would be able to finalise recommendations to members in time to allow the EGM to be held before the New Year.

Events & Feedback

- The Board passed on their congratulations to the Nominet staff for winning the Oxfordshire Business Award for Customer and Staff Care. The award was made in recognition of Nominet's learning culture, staff motivation and good customer management.
- During July Nominet hosted visits from Alun Michael, MP and Doug Brent, Chief Operating Officer of ICANN.
- Internet Governance Forum (IGF): The UK-IGF will be represented at the East Africa IGF and Commonwealth IGF meeting to be held in Nairobi later in September.
- Nominet is sponsoring the 2009 Parliament and Internet Conference to be held on 15th October at the Houses of Parliament.

Nominet Trust

- Jonathan Welfare (Nominet Trust Chairman) attended the meeting and presented a review of the Trust's first year of activities and plans for the following year. The Board was pleased with the progress of the Trust in funding projects in Internet education, safety and inclusion, and impressed with the range of awards made. Following careful consideration of the year end position for 30 September 2009, together with the budget for the following financial year and long range financial forecasts for the next three years, the Board approved a donation of £3m to the Nominet Trust.

Operational Statistics

As at 31 July there were 2,863 active members and 4,248 active tags. Since June 2009, 4 new members have joined. The number of new registrations in June 2009 was 150,235 (June 2008: 145,622) and July 2009 was 152,530 (July 2008: 134,515). The average renewal rate for the past 12 months was 68.1%. The net growth of the register for the last 12 months was 10%.