

This document contains respondents between 30 and 30 inclusive.

1. Do you support the idea of placing relevant stakeholders at the heart of the policy advisory process?

- Yes
 No

2. Do you support the PAB's proposal for the creation of issues groups to develop policy recommendations in response to stakeholder proposals?

- Yes
 No

3. Do you agree with the PAB's outline for issues groups (open membership, stakeholder led, time-limited, with a requirement to prepare an impact assessment, and working by consensus)?

- Yes
 No

Do you have any comments on the way that issues groups might work?

Once the processes by which issues groups will be established are set out, it is important that there should be sufficient flexibility to allow them to be set up, populated and run appropriate to the context in which the policy issue sits. Without this flexibility, a one size fits all approach can lead to one of two outcomes: cumbersome procedures designed to tackle complex issues being used to deal with relatively minor or straightforward problems and as a result forcing groups to take a long time over something that could be dealt with swiftly; over-simplified procedures and rules which do allow swift and effective discussion/resolution of simple matters but only allow for a cursory glance at complex and/or important policies.

4. What mechanism should there be for selecting members of issues groups?

In particular, how might we ensure effective participation from Nominet members to bring necessary expertise into the discussions?

The crucial point is ensuring that the members with most to add are aware of the existence of the group and, of course, aware of the need to resolve that particular issue.

It will also be important to answer the inevitable 'what's in it for me' question - demonstrate why members should give up their time to participate and make sure that there are clearly articulated outcomes that members can take away and, for example, use as evidence that their time was well spent.

5. Do you agree that "permanent" groups might be needed in certain cases?

- Yes
 No

What issues might benefit from this approach?

Industry standards type issues, law enforcement, international , regulatory compliance. I am sure there are others of more direct concern to those in the industry.

6. Do you agree that “closed groups” (i.e. groups with invited membership) should be set up when this is necessary?

- Yes
 No

What issues might benefit from this approach?

Law enforcement, legal issues, security.

7. Do you agree that a standing committee is necessary to provide some form of independent assessment of, and support for, the issues groups?

- Yes
 No

8. Do you agree that the tasks identified by the PAB for the standing committee are appropriate?

- Yes
 No

9. Do you agree with the range of stakeholders identified by the PAB for the membership of the standing committee?

- Yes
 No

10. Do you support the proposal for an enhanced secretariat taking an active role in the standing committee of stakeholders and for engaging with external stakeholders?

- Yes
 No

11. Do you have any further comments on the proposed new policy advisory process?

This is a real opportunity to make sure that Nominet can respond to and take a lead on the myriad policy matters that arise in the industry. The new structure should have clear rules and set criteria but should avoid being so rigid that the solutions never present themselves. A key first step is the establishment of a credible and independent standing committee which has the over-riding concern that Nominet policy is consistently aimed at improving the .uk market for citizens and business as well as members

12. Please give us your contact details

Name

Dave Evans

Company name/Organisation name

ICO