

This document contains respondents between 19 and 19 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?

I fear this approach could "clutter" up Nominet with too much activity so that important issues are lost. I prefer a process whereby the Board consider requests for Issues Groups to be formed. If they think there is a need, they can formalise it. Thus the community can request an Issue Group but the Board appoints them. This will filter out the frivolous and the malicious and ensure that the organisation is focussed on core values. If an Issue Group is denied by the Board, there could be a Reconsideration process.

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?

Effective participation should come from stakeholders - not just Members. A scoping document or study produced by a paid for professional help to define the issue. As part of this scoping, the blend of skills/experience/people to take the Group forward could be identified. Attention must be paid to ensure that a small group of similar members with similar views do not try to influence policy via a closed issue group.

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

Yes

No

What issues might benefit from this approach?

There are some issues such as IP Protections or Malicious Behaviours (Phishing etc) that could be standing issue groups. These matters benefit all UK stakeholders.

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?

Issues where a high-level of expertise and experience is required or where confidential matters such as law enforcement are discussed.

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

How should members of the standing committee be identified?

In particular, how should Nominet member participation of the standing committee be chosen, bearing in mind the importance of ensuring balance representation?

The groups appear to broad: for example there are some Members whose businesses turn-over millions of pounds and others whose domain activities would be described by the tax office as a hobby. Certainly further thought needs to be given to "Consumers" - this process is too important to allow a single domain name owner to self-identify as a "Consumer". Other institutions that depend on domain names such as Academic Organisations, Not-for-profits could be there.

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?

I believe that the PAB needs to operate within a narrow range. I have raised before the idea of Nominet providing seed funding for a Trade Association for the domain industry. I believe that such an Association is required to balance the PAB. It would be a better place for a range of issues of interest to the Membership of Nominet to be discussed.

I also believe that all current members of the PAB who have contributed a great deal should be stood down in favour of new members. New blood is needed.

12. Please give us your contact details

Name

Nick Wood

Company name/Organisation name

Com Laude