

I am writing preparatory to our meeting on 17th September. Please note that this meeting will start at 10.30 and I propose it will run until 3.00pm, because of the importance of the issues to be discussed.

Firstly, I think it is worth restating that in July everyone agreed that change was necessary, and that the PAB required significant reform if it was to engage with and capture the views of the much wider stakeholder community now involved with the Internet. Maintaining the status quo was not seen by anyone as an acceptable option.

We also reached agreement on a number of factors that need to be part of the mix in any revised structure and process. These included the:

§ Desirability of using an “issues based” approach to managing stakeholder concerns;

§ Need to be accessible by different stakeholder groupings, including special interest groups;

§ Need to improve communication channels between members and a larger and more diverse range of interested stakeholders.

On this last point, I think it is also worth mentioning that using the long list of stakeholders that we produced when we last met, Nominet has already started the process of trying to map stakeholders and their likely areas of interest (a copy of the first drafts of two maps – stakeholders and issues – are attached, but please note these are working documents to be used for illustrative purposes, not finished definitive documents). I also attach a simplified flow chart. I hope you find these helpful.

We agreed that, in September, we needed to examine the process implications of effective engagement with stakeholders. We all recognised how our expectations for improving stakeholder engagement would impact on the PAB workload.

Looking forward we also need to consider the time line for the reform process: building on July we should be able to make substantial progress, but it is unlikely that all can be resolved at just the September meeting. We could concentrate on defining the types of processes that could meet the challenges we identified in July. Some work may then be necessary to refine these processes in preparation for the November meeting, where we should aim to complete the design of the new functions and make recommendations to the Board on the future of the policy advisory functions.

I mentioned above that I propose our 17th September meeting should run until 3.00pm to allow sufficient time for our discussion. We will also have to deal with the feedback on the Phishing meeting and I propose to do this before we turn our attention to our discussion of the PAB's future. Although I recognize it is not likely to be possible to get a definite plan put together for recommendation at that meeting, I would like to get as much done as possible so that we can bring very firm outlines of where we want to go for polishing at the November meeting (which incidentally will be on 11th November).

Eric Ramage
PAB Chair