

## Board Decision on the .uk Policy Process, 27 April 2010

The Board welcome the support of a wide range of Stakeholders, including Nominet members, for the proposed new .uk Policy Process, which shows clear support for wider involvement in shaping .uk policy. The Board have therefore requested the Executive to implement the new process as below.

1. The current PAB will cease to operate following its May 2010 meeting.
2. **The core of the new .uk policy process will be issue groups based on stakeholder engagement.** The Board confirm that, in considering recommendations from an issue group, they will take into account broad stakeholder engagement in the issue group's work. In addition, they will require the secretariat to assess the progress of issue groups annually.
3. The Board will endorse the creation of long-term issue groups where this is appropriate. Their operation will be assessed as part of the annual review.
4. The Board will endorse the creation of closed issues groups as an exception, where this is appropriate. Their operation will be assessed as part of the annual review. It is noted that the recommendations from closed groups will be made public.
5. The Board have asked the executive to ensure effective resources are made available to the secretariat to support the new .uk policy process. The secretariat will have the role of supporting the issue groups and for helping to ensure proper stakeholder engagement in issue groups.
6. The Board support the appointment of a senior member of the executive to be responsible for stakeholder engagement. This could be a post held by the head of secretariat, bearing in mind the key role the secretariat will have in ensuring that the stakeholder is at the centre of the new .uk policy process.
7. The Board have agreed to create a stakeholder committee to support the .uk policy process. The stakeholder committee should have the role of helping the issue groups and should enable and encourage the advisory process. It will have no power to prevent the creation of an issue group or to filter recommendations from issue groups.
8. The Board want to ensure a good balance of stakeholder interests in the .uk Policy Stakeholder Committee. It should include members chosen from Nominet's membership to bring expertise from a range of the different sectors of Nominet member interest, and others covering interests of stakeholders from a wider background. In addition, there will be direct representation from Nominet. This will be achieved by a maximum committee size of 8-10 appointed members. The effectiveness of the committee will be assessed as part of the policy process. In addition the Board will review the structure and function of the committee after the first two years of operation.
9. The Board have requested the executive to develop an outreach programme with the aim of ensuring that relevant stakeholders are engaged in the policy process.
10. There should be an annual ".UK Policy Conference". The stakeholder committee could have a key role in this work.
11. The Board have requested the executive to draw up a comprehensive implementation plan for the launch of the new policy advisory process.