

Nominet's board of directors met on 15 December 2004.

Appointment of new Chairman - update

An advertisement for this part-time role was placed in the Sunday Times which drew over 70 applications. Four candidates were interviewed just before Christmas. Whilst the candidates all had impressive CVs and relevant experience, it was concluded that they were not fully suitable and that the position would be re-advertised in the New Year.

Litigation against Peter Francis Macrae

Nominet has obtained interim injunctions against Mr Macrae and Ultra Technologies Limited. The effect of the injunctions is to prevent the defendants from sending out misleading "Domain Registry Services" notices to .uk registrants, from abusing the WHOIS, from passing themselves off as Nominet and from harassing Nominet staff

Mr Macrae is currently on remand in custody, and has been charged with a number of offences including money laundering, blackmail and threats to kill. No pleas have been entered.

Excellence Model

The Board were pleased to approve a proposal that Nominet adopt the Excellence Model developed by the European Foundation for Quality Management. The Excellence Model offers a non-prescriptive organizational framework to help a company deliver sustainable improvement. Since the concepts of excellence and improvement go through several of Nominet's existing strategies, the Board agreed that it was sensible to adopt this framework, with a view to achieving Investor in Excellence status.

Revised GAC Principles

The Governmental Advisory Committee ("GAC") to ICANN has recently published a revised draft of the "GAC Principles for Delegation and Administration of ccTLD Registries" for public comment. The Board noted that the revised draft represents a significant improvement on the original "GAC Principles" (published in 2000). Nominet will be responding to the request for public comment.

Policy Advisory Board (PAB)

The Board approved a number of policy recommendations made by the PAB, including a work item for the executive to develop a paper of options for the PAB to consider in relation to domain names advertising or connected with child pornography.

The Board approved a new version of the PAB rules, with changes including the removal of voting rights from the appointed non-executive directors who attend PAB meetings, and authorisation of payment for the PAB chair.

Executive Team

The Board approved proposals regarding the responsibilities devolved to the Managing Director and her team as a result of the restructure of the role of Chairman. It was agreed that Lesley Cowley's job title would be changed to Chief Executive to reflect the additional responsibilities that her role has gained.

Operational Statistics

There were 2,719 active members and 3,646 active tags as at 1 December 2004. During November, 14 new members joined and 15 members resigned. The number of new registrations in November was 98,101 and 64,861 renewals were invoiced.

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Nominet UK Announcement mailing list

<http://www.nominet.org.uk/lists/nom-announce.html>