

## Consultation Questions

We would ask that you respond with a yes/no wherever possible, although if you need to expand in addition to this on a question, please do so.

Function of a domain name:

1 What do you believe is a function of a domain name?

*To give useful, though not necessarily definitive, information about the status of the domain holder.*

### Perception of the “.net.uk” SLD:

2 Would you class yourself as working in, or being part of the ISP/network provider industry?

*No.*

3 Do you associate “.net.uk” with an ISP/network provider-type company?

*Yes.*

4 On a scale of 1 to 5, do you believe that the “average Internet user” associates “.net.uk” with an ISP/network provider? (1 = No association, 5 = Strong association)

*3*

5 (a) How far do you see .net.uk as a duplicate for .co.uk, .net or other TLDs/SLDs?

*Yes*

(b) Would this be different if anyone could register a .net.uk domain?

*Yes - very. .net.uk would become almost meaningless.*

### Definitions of an ISP/Network Provider:

6 How would you attempt to define an “Internet Service Provider (ISP)” and what would you say are typical characteristics of an ISP? Are these objective criteria which are easy to verify automatically?.

*“An ISP is a company that is a Nominet member and tag holder” seems simple and easily verifiable. However I would not object to an alternative strong definition.*

7 How would you attempt to define a “Network Provider” and what would you say are typical characteristics of a Network Provider? Are these objective criteria which are easy to verify automatically?

*I wouldn't - the term is so loose that any attempt to define it strictly would be vexatious and would probably lead to loss of meaning rather than increase.*

8 Do you believe there are sufficient differences which can be clearly defined between an

ISP and Network Provider? If you believe the domain should be restricted to some definition, should this be inclusive of both an ISP and Network Provider, or one of them?

*No. See my answers to 6 & 7. If a strong definition of an ISP could be determined which would also include "Network Providers" then I would be happy.*

## Options

9 What general option do you favour, and why?

- a. Close .net.uk completely to new registrations.
- b. Restrict .net.uk for some definition of ISP/network operator with strict eligibility criteria.

*I strongly favour option (b) since restricted eligibility and strong definitions give useful meaning to domains - anything other than that is barely more useful than, for example, countries which only use their geographic TLD and where SLDs are more or less open, except in the sense of expanding the available namespace.*

- c. Open .net.uk with a charter to indicate its suggested use for ISPs/network operators but without a restriction enforcing such a recommendation.
- d. Open .net.uk with no specific charter (everyone is encouraged to register)
- e. Another option. (please explain)

10 If you believe there should be a restriction of some kind, how should this be structured?

(see previous page for some ideas)

*See answers to 6 & 9.*

11 If there is a restriction on the registrant, do you believe that the rules for ".net.uk" should require some kind of presence in the UK?

*Yes.*

12 If registration of ".net.uk" domains is restricted to a specific type of organisation, should its use (e.g. subdomains, e-mail addresses, etc.) also be restricted [for names registered under such rules]?

*Yes.*

13 If the .net.uk SLD is opened up for registration with no or very limited controls, would the benefits of more registrations be defeated by any problems such as more defensive/duplicate registrations?

*Yes.*