

1. To identify network providers infrastructure and staff (rather than customer) email addresses, and services.
2. Yes
3. Yes
4. 2
5. (a) ISPs would have co.uk and net.uk, yes. And they have different purposes. Many ISPs give customers email addresses under their co.uk domain. (b) If net.uk was open, it would lead to a lot of duplication with no difference in purpose, and user confusion.
6. I feel an ISP is more specific than a "Communications Provider", and net.uk rules should not be a tool for enforcing OFCOM rules. I am happy with the requirements for an AS or LIR tag. Whilst both of these are easy to obtain, they require a significant knowledge of network operations that is generally only found within ISPs. One could go further and require an active AS number, i.e. not just a case of someone asking RIPE for one, and not using it, but actually having blocks announced using it.
7. It is difficult to make an objective criteria as there is a wide range of "network providers" from someone who happens to host for someone (maybe not even on their own equipment), and someone who is a major end user connectivity provider or transit provider. I think the key factor in this matter is providing internet connectivity, which is why I think an active AS number is a reasonable criteria. It is not that hard for someone to achieve if they consider themselves an "ISP" and want a net.uk domain and is not an expensive obstacle, but is one that will keep .net.uk reasonably free of those that just want a net.uk domain and are not an ISP.
8. I am not sure "network provider" as term helps at all. Inter*net* is all about interconnected networks. An ISP is a network provider. One could perhaps consider people that provide no IP connectivity, such as those operating a telephone network, within the term "network provider", but I don't think it helps anyone for them to have a net.uk domain if they are not an ISP, and I also think with VoIP convergence, a non IP network provider is that likely any more.
9. b. The current criteria are adequate, but could be refined further to an "active" AS number with BGP routers announced.
10. As above
11. I think the "UK" aspect of the domain is important. The presence need not be a formal office or company registration, but one could make it that there is a UK connection point in BGP.
12. I like the distinction in use of net.uk and co.uk, so you can see that an email at a net.uk domain is for the ISP and not its customers.
13. Yes, I think it is no help to dilute the namespace even more by opening the domain.

People already get confused with co.uk, com, org, net, and will remember a name without the suffix all too easily. Registrants already have to try and think of names covering all of the main domains without having to include net.uk as well.

I think the UK should be proud of having specific SLDs like this, and should promote a view of "You know where you are with .uk" that highlights to people the trust you can place in ltd.uk, plc.uk, gov.uk, police.uk, net.uk domains. They have specific and enforced criteria and do not need diluting.

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