

Nominet's Board of Directors met on 21 & 22 May 2003

BOARD NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS 2003

Alex Bligh and Rob Blokzijl retire as non-executive directors by rotation and have indicated their willingness to re-stand. Under conventional corporate governance guidelines, companies normally propose a resolution to re-elect directors retiring by rotation, with the unanimous recommendation of the board. The board unanimously believes it functions well together as a coherent entity, and values its current constitution. However, it believes that the members should be free to nominate and elect board directors in an open and transparent manner, by calling for additional nominations, and holding an election.

JOINT COM-PAB MEETING

The board and PAB are holding a joint meeting today (4 June). The meeting will consider Nominet's strategic plan, the role of the PAB within the company and the PAB's modus operandi and work programme for the coming year.

ICANN

The board was pleased that the responses from CENTR and the Government Advisory Committee (GAC) to ICANN's Evolution and Reform Committee's plan for a new Country-code Names Supporting Organization were well aligned. Whilst appreciating the need for a distinct forum within ICANN for the ccTLDs to discuss issues and develop best practice, the criticisms included the requirement that ICANN respects national policy-making as pre-eminent and restricts its own policy developments only to those issues proven to be of global necessity: generally concerning the operation of the IANA function.

PERCEPTIONS SURVEYS

The board was pleased to review the results of two surveys. A survey of UK parliamentarians revealed no significant overall concerns about how Nominet is run. Contacts are being made with key politicians to ensure that any remaining concerns are addressed. A general business survey among MDs, FDs and senior managers of businesses with turnovers of £500k or more showed that 24% had heard of Nominet compared to 13% in last year's similar survey. It also showed that .uk continues to be the market-leader in the UK with 36% of businesses having one whilst .com domain names run at 22%. The take-up of other gTLDs accounted for only 4% of registrations. The image of the domain name suffix was a high factor in a large number of registrant's choices.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

There were 2,747 active members as at 1 May 2003. During April 21 new members were added and 11 members resigned. There were 3,304 active tag holders, with 840 having been withdrawn and 204 suspended. There were 65,591 new registrations during April, 32 were direct registrations and there were 67,419 renewals invoiced.