

DECEMBER 2011 COMMUNIQUÉ

Nominet's Board of Directors met on 13th December 2011.

Company Matters

- The CEO reported to the Board on the ICANN meeting held in Dakar, Senegal. The ongoing debate as to the direction of the governance of the Internet and the domain name system in particular were highlighted.
- The CEO gave evidence to the parliamentary Science and Technology Select Committee on Cyber Crime, covering Nominet's role as a strong guardian of industry best practice, self regulation and collaboration to prevent e-Crime. Cyber-security is an increasing issue of governmental concern and priority, and Nominet's CEO also attended the London cyber-security conference.
- The Director of IT presented an update of the work of the R&D team, including analytics of abuse patterns. The Board confirmed the importance of this work as part of Nominet's strategic priorities, and encouraged the further adoption of DNSSEC as a security measure for the Internet. Nominet's role as a facilitator of DNSSEC uptake as a provider of signing services was reviewed and approved.
- The Board also received a presentation from the Director of Marketing and Communication, setting out the highlights of recent activity, the strategic priorities for the year ahead and the current direction for promotion and branding of .uk. The Board welcomed the success of recent activities such as the "Accidental Outlaw" campaign.
- An update on the progress of the policy issue group examining the processes for suspension of domain names involved in criminal activity was received. The Board noted that the work of the issue group was ongoing and that a further update would be received in the New Year.

Finance Matters

- The Board received the Audit Committee's report of work undertaken by Grant Thornton in their independent scrutiny and assessment of the draft financial statements for the financial year ended 30th September 2011. The Audit Committee Chair reported that the audit process had been smooth and that the auditors had confirmed a clean bill of health.
- The investment strategy and treasury policy for the company's assets were both fully reviewed by the Board following the Investment Committee's annual review. The investment principles were re-affirmed as being the protection of capital with income returns over that which would be obtained from cash deposits. The panel of deposit holding institutions had also been subjected to updated due diligence, in recognition of the ongoing economic uncertainty and the volatility of the capital markets.

Forthcoming Events

11 January 2012: Registrar breakfast briefing, London

12 January – 12 April 2012: Applications window for new gTLD programme

6 March 2012: Registrar lunch briefing, London

12-18 March 2012: ICANN Meeting, Costa Rica

Operational Statistics

As at 30 November 2011 there were 2,786 active members and 4,518 active tags. Since September 2011, 27 new members have joined. The number of new registrations in October 2011 was 160,267 (October 2010: 167,244) and the number of new registrations in November 2011 was 159,981 (November 2010: 170,831). The average renewal rate for the past 12 months was 69%. The total number of names on the register as at 30 November 2011 was 9,841,776 and the net growth of the register for the last 12 months was 9.76%.