

Hi

Of the offered options, we are in favour of Option 3 to begin with, moving on to Option 4 (or as close as possible to this option) over time. Overall we would prefer changing the voting structure to as close to OMOV if OMOV itself can not be achieved.

We are also keen on seeing some sort of investigation into the avenues that Clive Feather has pointed out, although I'd keep the cap at 3% or lower (of votes cast) rather than go with 4%.

There seems to be a conflict of interest between the role of a member (ie, the interest in the purpose of Nominet as an organisation for the greater good of the community) and that of the interests of that member as a tagholder (ie commercial interests). When a member votes, does that member vote in the interest of Nominet or in the interest of their own business concerns?

Time and again I am informed that the larger members represent a higher proportion of stakeholders and thus they should get more of a vote. I have not agreed with this for a long time and have used the following example in the past to illustrate this:

Let's take any large member who may be pretty much 'box shifters' where .uk domains are concerned - let's say this box shifter sells to the public for less than it costs them to buy from Nominet. So the public buy from them on price primarily. Now, let's imagine I was a large customer of theirs, and had 50,000 .uk domains with them. Let's imagine another customer of theirs had 80,000 and a third customer had 20,000 domains with them. If Nominet put a motion forward and the large member wanted to vote YES to this but their three large customers wanted the large member to vote NO, would the large member do what the wider stakeholder community wanted or would it vote in the way it wanted to? I am pretty sure the wider stakeholder community would be of no concern and their views would not matter.

There is no doubt that the current larger Nominet members have got there by selling at very low cost. To me it is simple, low price = lots of domain customers \neq (ie, does not equal) representing the viewpoint of those domain customers.

I therefore have a slight problem with this as I can not see how the commercial interests (of any member) can totally equate to community interests.

This is my biggest concern with weighted voting and it is why OMOV or pretty much close to it would be good.

Regards
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