

Dear Nominet,

Hannah and I attended the Scope Consultation Meeting last night in Manchester, formally presented by the Chairman, Bob Gilbert.

The meeting was most informative, and very enlightening, and we feel that it was a great shame that so few people were in attendance to hear the spoken words by Bob, Emily, and other Nominet persons, - which clarified everything previously mentioned in the written word.

Below are my personal opinions on the 4 Options as mentioned on the 'Consultation on the scope of Nominet' information sheets.

Kind regards, Fran Patten (Ms)
Academy Internet Solutions Limited

Option 1.

I think it is very necessary to change the clause.

My reason:

For Nominet to just remain as provider of .uk domain names, I feel that this is not forward thinking. As many/most suitable present companies now already have their chosen domain name, and only more obscure domain names, and longer domain names, now being the ones more likely to be available to purchase, I feel there is a likelihood to be a lull eventually on the registration of new .uk domain names. Having owned our own company for over six years, and having worked in an internet company previously (where half the business involved registering new domain names for companies and individuals), I know from personal experience that in yesteryears, when there were still many prestigious domain names "up for grabs", companies and individuals would 'bulk order' several domain names. (Many of these domain names were purchased with a view to selling them on in the future at a huge profit). As there becomes fewer and fewer (if any) prestigious domain names available to register nowadays, very few new companies, and individuals, now want to register anything more than a suitable .co.uk domain name, along with, occasionally, a .com version of this domain name.

Options 2, 3 and 4.

I am uncertain which Option I would put down as a preference - as each Option appears to cover different aspects of Nominet's considerations. But I would like to mention that I consider the current clause requires tweaks to allow Nominet to bid to the UK ENUM registry and offer consultancy - and to offer a large number of registry service areas. I feel that the restatement of the clause would need to include a mention of Nominet's core business being the registry of .uk internet domain names.

My reason:

To include all new avenues open to Nominet, and/or available for tender, which have some sort of an association/relevance with Nominet's core business, I feel is forward thinking. Very few companies in the private sector (and this is especially applicable to internet companies) would ever dare to 'rest on their laurels'. There has to be constant vigilance to the ever-changing demands, and new requirements, - particularly with all the new developments coming in all the time in technology. And just like a business in the private sector, I strongly feel that Nominet also needs to approach all appropriate new horizons.