

FEBRUARY 2014 COMMUNIQUÉ

Nominet's Board of Directors met on 25th February 2014.

Board matters

In the context of increased activity in the area of international internet governance, the Board confirmed the formation and terms of reference for an International Working Group, focused on consideration of the company's contribution to and engagement with the global internet community.

Company matters

The Chief Operating Officer gave an update on the implementation of the Macdonald review recommendations. These had been unanimously accepted at the previous meeting. The Board approved the necessary changes to the Terms and Conditions of Domain Name Registration which would contractually implement the policy changes. It was also agreed that the executive would begin a general process of reviewing the .uk contract documents, with a view to standardising terminology and updating the contract wording.

The executive provided an update on the launch of Welsh domains - .cymru and .wales. Subject to final ICANN clearances and contracting, the launch was likely to be later in 2014.

The company business plan covering 24 months across financial years 13-14 and 14-15 was reviewed.

Two external audits have recently been completed relating to ISO 20000 re-accreditation and ISO 27001 readiness assessment.

Policy process review

The current .uk policy process has been in operation since 2010, and the Board had therefore requested a review by the executive as to its operation, based on the policy areas for discussion and consultation that had arisen over the past three years.

A number of specific recommendations were agreed by the Board in the light of this review:

- A commitment to development and publication of the rationale for proposed policy changes or proposals where possible.
- Publication as standard the responses to Nominet policy consultations.
- Publication of a forward work programme, outlining policy priorities and areas where the company will seek stakeholder input.
- Regular review of the relevant content on the company website, to ensure that information about the policy process is easily accessible.
- Increase the number of Stakeholder Committee representatives, in order to strengthen and broaden the composition and optimise the contribution of the Committee.
- Continue to review the .uk policy process over time, with particular regard to the Cabinet Office consultation principles and best practices.

Finance matters

The Board reviewed latest financial projections for the current financial year. It was noted that the market for new registrations was becoming increasingly competitive, with performance below prior years and the budget set for the current financial year.

A regular review of risk areas for the business was presented by the executive, as previously requested by the Audit Committee.

Subject to a final review by Board members, the CEO was authorised to sign off the Annual Report on behalf of the Board.

Forthcoming events

.uk registrar conference: 5 March

ICANN Singapore: 23-27 March

Nominet Internet Awards 2014: closing date for entries 25 April, awards announced 3 July

Operational Statistics

As at 31st January 2014 there were 2,792 active members and 4,698 active tags. Since the end of December 2013 1 new member has joined. The number of new registrations in January 2014 was 156,751 (January 2013: 187,014). The average renewal rate for the past 12 months (to October 2013) was 67.8%. The total number of names on the register as at end of 31st January 2014 was 10,548,616 and the net growth of the register for the last 12 months was 2.0%