

Contact data disclosure in the .UK WHOIS

Summary of key changes to our policy

Opting out of address publication in the WHOIS

- Whilst we will maintain the first part of the eligibility criteria so that only individuals are eligible to opt out of publishing their address on the WHOIS, we will also make minor modifications to the non-trading definition for domains. These changes relate to interpretation and no technical development will be necessary.
- The new eligibility criteria for domains opting out of address publication will be:
 - The registrant must be an individual; and,
 - The domain name must not be used to:
 - transact with customers (merchant websites) or;
 - primarily advertise or promote goods, services, or facilities.
- We will amend Nominet's Terms and Conditions to include specific reference to an eligible registrant's ability to opt out of address publication in the WHOIS.
- We will provide guidance on the Nominet website about the key terms in our Terms and Conditions of Registration that registrars can provide a link to.
- The WHOIS opt-out will be renamed WHOIS Address opt-out to more accurately reflect the data that is withheld from publication.

These changes will come into effect on the 1st September 2015.

Privacy Services

- Nominet will formally recognise privacy services by introducing a non-mandated framework to enable registrars to sell privacy whilst providing Nominet with underlying registrant contact data that will not be made available in the WHOIS.
- We will introduce functionality using standard EPP (contact disclose fields RFC5733) to enable all types of registrars to sell privacy to all types of registrants on .uk domains by specifying the name and address of the privacy service to be shown when a WHOIS query of a domain using privacy is returned.
- Registrars will be able to nominate a third party privacy service or use their own privacy service, and will be responsible for that privacy service and the compliance of that privacy service with the conditions set out by Nominet. Registrants who purchase privacy from a registrar will be entering into a privacy services agreement with the registrar, not with Nominet.
- The contact details of the privacy service nominated by the registrar will be validated by Nominet. These details will be published in the WHOIS for those domains using the framework.
- The Registrar Agreement and associated policies will be amended to include the standards registrars must meet if agreeing to use the privacy services functionality. These are that the registrar's privacy service must:
 - Act as an address for service for the registrant
 - Respond to or transmit abuse complaints from third parties to the registrant
 - Provide contact details of the privacy service to be validated by Nominet and which will be published in the WHOIS
- Registrars will be responsible for the compliance of their privacy service.

- Whilst Nominet will continue to only disclose registrant information to third parties as per our current [data release policy](#), we will incorporate a new stage in our disclosure process to notify a registrar if we intend to release the data of a registrant with a privacy services flag.
- We will pilot the reporting of aggregate figures related to data disclosure requests and releases.
- Nominet will not permit registrants to change privacy service settings themselves via Online Services and will require this to be done via their registrar.

Detailed information on the implementation will be published in due course, with tailored information for registrars to be made available on the Nominet Registrar Resources website over the coming months.

These changes will come into effect before the end of 2015 and formal notification will be given with a minimum of 30 days' notice. However it is important to note that the privacy services framework is not mandated and registrars will be able to transition at a pace and time that suits their needs. We will offer support for registrars in the use of the new functionality.

Registrars will also be supported in the transfer of any legacy privacy service domains to the new framework if required.