

SEPTEMBER 2015 COMMUNIQUÉ

Nominet's Board of Directors met on 22nd September 2015.

Board matters

The Chair welcomed Jane Tozer to her first meeting.

The CEO led a review of the strategic road map, bearing in mind that there had been some changes in the Board membership since the beginning of the year. The Board reaffirmed the strategy map and direction as presented and noted the actions completed, in train and outstanding.

Model review: it was noted that Sir Michael Lyons would now be preparing his report for the October 2015 strategy day.

The Head of Governance and Company Secretary reported the results of a re-tendering exercise for the AGM and non-executive director elections scrutineer services. Dickie Armour as Chair of the 2016 Elections Committee had assisted in the shortlisting and selection process. The Board approved the recommendation for a new supplier for 2016.

Company matters

Following on from previous discussions on pricing the Executive presented a position paper on pricing strategy for .UK domains which was adopted by the Board. An Executive recommendation for implementation of the new pricing strategy would be brought to the November meeting.

The CTO together with the Directors of R&D and New Business and Product Development presented the company's innovation strategy. The Board approved the strategic direction. It was noted that for the purposes of employing a small number of staff in the US the company now had incorporated a US subsidiary.

The CEO reported that some of the strategic workstreams set up by him earlier in the year were now nearing conclusion. In particular the brand positioning review work had resulted in a new company logo and website which would be launched in October. The review of the structure of the company's contractual framework for .UK domain registrations had also been completed with a recommendation for improvement in some of the explanations provided on the website and to registrars, together with some staff training. As part of this strategic review in which investment in R&D and business development had been increased, in order to keep overall staff costs static, some areas within the Operations directorate had reduced staff numbers through a redundancy exercise. The Board thanked all staff for their professionalism during this process and wished all leavers the very best in their next endeavours.

The COO reported that both the standard registrar agreement and the Dispute Resolution Service documentation had been subject to a periodic review. As a result non-substantive changes in both sets of wording would be proposed, subject to public consultation.

Finance matters

The budget for the financial year commencing 1 October 2015 was approved.

The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee confirmed that the audit plan for the financial year ending 30 September 2015 had been agreed with Grant Thornton.

Nominet Trust

The Nominet Trust report and business plan for their next financial year was received. A donation of £4m was approved.

Forthcoming events

Key Partners meeting: 1 October
ICANN Dublin: 18-22 October

Operational statistics

As at 31st August 2015 there were 2,644 active members and 3,145 active tags. Since the end of June 2015 8 new members have joined. The number of new registrations in August 2015 was 135,821 & July 2015 was 157,781 (August 2015: 139,649, July 2015: 155,440). The average renewal rate for the past 12 months (to May 2015) was 72.3%. The total number of names on the register as at end of 31st August 2015 was 10,596,373 and the net growth of the register for the last 12 months was 0.82%.

Criminal domain suspensions

During July and August 2015 Nominet suspended 622 domains at the request of UK law enforcement agencies. No requests for reversals have been received.