

NOVEMBER 2015 COMMUNIQUÉ

Nominet's Board of Directors met on 24th November 2015.

Board matters

Pricing and registrant terms and conditions: The Board discussed and supported the work of changes to pricing and the registrant terms and conditions. These matters were covered by a separate announcement on 25th November 2015.

Public benefit: The Board received an update on the continued development of our Public Benefit strategy and agreed two key headings for further work; Internet Safety and Digital Security as well as Digital Adoption and Inclusion. These will stand alongside our investment in the Nominet Trust and their work on using technology to tackle social challenges. More work is planned over the coming months to expand on this and will be presented to future Board meetings in 2016.

Model review: The Board formally received the report from Sir Michael Lyons which contains 19 recommendations. The Board noted the recommendations do not suggest any major restructure to Nominet and established a working group until January 2016 comprising the Chair, CEO, COO, an appointed non-executive director (Andrew Pinder) and an elected non-executive director (Denesh Bhabuta) to consider the report and prepare a formal response for consideration at the January 2016 Board meeting. Shortly after this meeting, Sir Michael's report and the Board response will be published in full.

Elections: The Board approved an amendment to the voting bye-law for the election of non-executive directors that means the voting deadline for the election will coincide with the deadline for the appointment of proxies for the Annual General Meeting. Details of the process for elections 2016 will be communicated in the week commencing 14th December 2015.

Company matters

Improved DNS constellation: The Board noted that due to the investment in upgrading the DNS constellation, international users, especially those in the USA, are getting better performance when querying addresses in .uk.

Data validation: The Board received an update on data validation and services following the amendments agreed in May 2015. The Board supported a proposal from the Executive to revisit broader questions on next steps related to data quality in Q1 of 2016 and the links to public benefit.

Finance matters

The Board noted the investment strategy and performance review and approved their continued support for the strategy and the use of Quilter Cheviot as the company's investment managers.

Nominet Trust

A report was provided from the Nominet Trust on their activities. Key points from the report include the launch of the Nominet Trust 100 on 9th December 2015 and feedback on the Trust's attendance at ICANN Dublin.

Forthcoming events

Launch of the Nominet Trust 100 – 9th December 2015
Board to Board meeting with Nominet Trust – 26th January 2016
Nominet Board meeting – 27th January 2016

Operational statistics

As at 31st October 2015 there were 2,610 active members and 2,975 active tags. Since the end of August 2015 14 new members have joined. The number of new registrations in October 2015 was 156,423 & September 2015 was 151,736 (October 2014: 155,162, September 2014: 140,304). The average renewal rate for the past 12 months (to Jul 2015) was 72.7%. The total number of names on the register as at end of 31st October 2015 was 10,618,593 and the net growth of the register for the last 12 months was 0.83%.

Criminal domain suspensions

During September and October 2015, 432 domain names were suspended at the request of UK law enforcement agencies. Four requests for reversals were received and two were upheld.