

## **JUNE 2014 COMMUNIQUÉ**

Nominet's Board of Directors met on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

### **Board matters**

**New members:** The Chair welcomed newly elected non-executive directors Denesh Bhabuta and Oliver Hope to their first meeting. Both Denesh and Oliver had spoken about themselves, their background and motivation to stand for election to all staff at the company town hall and question and answers session held the previous day. Warm thanks were extended to Sebastien Lahtinen for his contributions over the many years he had served on the Board.

**CEO recruitment update:** The Chair confirmed that the role description and brief to the recruitment agency had been completed and that the CEO role would be advertised publicly.

**Committee membership:** The Board reviewed the membership of the Board committees in the light of the Board membership changes and agreed the following:

- Denesh Bhabuta would join the board of Nominet Registrar Services Ltd and the Nominations Committee.
- Eleanor Bradley would join the Board of Nominet Registrar Services Ltd and the International Working Group
- Oliver Hope to join Audit Committee, the Remuneration Committee and International Working Group

Piers White would now take on the role of Senior Independent Director.

The Board also welcomed the Simeon Foreman joining Nominet in the new role of Head of Governance and Company Secretary.

### **Elections Committee report**

The Elections Committee had met the previous week to discuss the 2014 AGM and elections from both an organisation and membership engagement perspective. There were a series of recommendations made as to how the 2015 AGM and elections could be organised. Any changes made would be communicated well in advance to members, together with the reasons for the changes. It was agreed that the Head of Governance and Company Secretary would coordinate the arrangements for the 2015 AGM and elections.

### **Company matters**

The overall size of the register continued to be adversely affected by pressure on renewal and new registration rates, such that the register size as at the end of May was slightly lower than 12 months previously. However the Board noted the positive launch of second level .uk on 10 June which had achieved more than 50k registrations on the first day, a figure which exceeded any new gTLD launch so far.

The Chief Commercial Officer described the events and marketing activities planned for ICANN's 50<sup>th</sup> meeting which is being held in London commencing 22 June.

An analysis of the market and opportunities for second round new gTLDs was presented to the Board.

The Board noted recent press comment about Nominet's data privacy and WHOIS opt out policies. The existing policy development road map, which included an already scheduled policy

review of privacy and proxy issues for Q3 2014 was referred to, and it was agreed that any outstanding issues and feedback would be addressed as part of this policy review.

The Chief Operating Officer gave an update following on from member questions at the AGM about Nominet's Model Review. An external consultant has been identified to carry out initial scoping work as phase one of a much longer process. This will assist the definition of the shape of the Model Review.

### **Finance matters**

The first draft of the business plan for the financial year 2014-15 was presented by the executive, and reviewed in context of the preliminary long-range budget forecasting for the next three fiscal years.

### **Nominet Trust**

The Chair reported back on the joint meeting of the boards of Nominet and the Nominet Trust which had taken place the previous day. The meeting was also attended by Dame Suzi Leather, former Chair of the Charity Commission, who is working with Nominet to advise the Board on optimum ways of developing the relationship between Nominet and the Nominet Trust whilst preserving the independence of the Trust. There was discussion about the need to ensure ongoing alignment of Nominet's and Nominet Trust's strategic plans and better ways to inform and involve both Nominet members and staff in the work of the Trust going forward. Following this meeting the new chair of the Nominet Trust, Charles Leadbeater had delivered a well-received presentation to all staff at the town hall meeting.

The Board congratulated the Trust CEO Annika Small for winning the Science and Technology category at the First Women Awards.

### **Forthcoming events**

Nominet Internet Awards 2014: 3 July

### **Operational Statistics**

As at 31st May 2014 there were 2,823 active members and 4,721 active tags. Since the end of April 2014 5 new members have joined. The number of new registrations in May 2014 was 134,208 (May 2013: 172,018). The average renewal rate for the past 12 months (to February 2014) was 68.4%. The total number of names on the register as at end of 31st May 2014 was 10,493,115 and the net growth of the register for the last 12 months was -0.2%