



NOMINET

TACKLING ONLINE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

1ST NOVEMBER 2022 - 31ST OCTOBER 2023

Nominet operates at the heart of the UK internet infrastructure, responsible for running the .UK domain. We work with law enforcement agencies to help protect internet users from criminality online.

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DOMAINS SUSPENDED FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY UNDER OUR CRIMINAL PRACTICES POLICY

HOW IT WORKS



Law enforcement agency notifies Nominet that a domain is being used for criminal activity



Nominet makes administrative checks



Nominet notifies the registrant and works with the registrar to suspend the domain



19 SUSPENSION REVERSALS

A suspension is reversed if the offending behaviour has stopped and the enforcing agency has since confirmed that the suspension can be lifted.



3 REQUESTS NOT RESULTING IN SUSPENSIONS

A request may not result in a suspension for a number of reasons.

For example, the domain may have already been suspended due to a parallel process, it may have already been transferred on a court order, or the registrant may have modified the website to make it compliant.



1 SUSPENSION REQUEST

from the Internet Watch Foundation on Child Sexual Abuse Images (CSAM) on .UK domains

Data refers to domains suspended due to requests received during the specified period

PROSCRIBED TERMS

Nominet prohibits the registration of domain names that promote or incite serious sexual offences (where there is no reasonable or legitimate use for that domain) as part of our terms and conditions of domain registration. While 1058 potential breaches were flagged, no domains were suspended.

HOW IT WORKS

NEW REGISTRATIONS



New domain registrations are run through an automated process where potential breaches are flagged.

EXISTING REGISTRATIONS



If Nominet receives a complaint about an existing domain name.



Each flagged domain name is manually checked to ensure no false positives go through. If a domain name is in breach, the registrant and registrar are notified and the domain is suspended and blocked so that no one can register that domain in the future. Registrants have 30 days to request a review of this assessment.



We advise that any complaints about website content and not the domain name should be referred directly to law enforcement.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

When alerted by law enforcement agencies, we work quickly with our registrars to suspend domains in accordance with our Criminal Practices Policy.



14 ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

CTIRU

Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit

EA

Environment Agency

FCA

Financial Conduct Authority

MHRA

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency

MPCSC

Metropolitan Police – Central Specialist Crime

MOD

Ministry of Defence Police

NCA

National Crime Agency

NFCU

National Food Crime Unit

NFIB

National Fraud Intelligence Bureau

OFCOM

Office of Communications

PIPCU

Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit

TS

Trading Standards

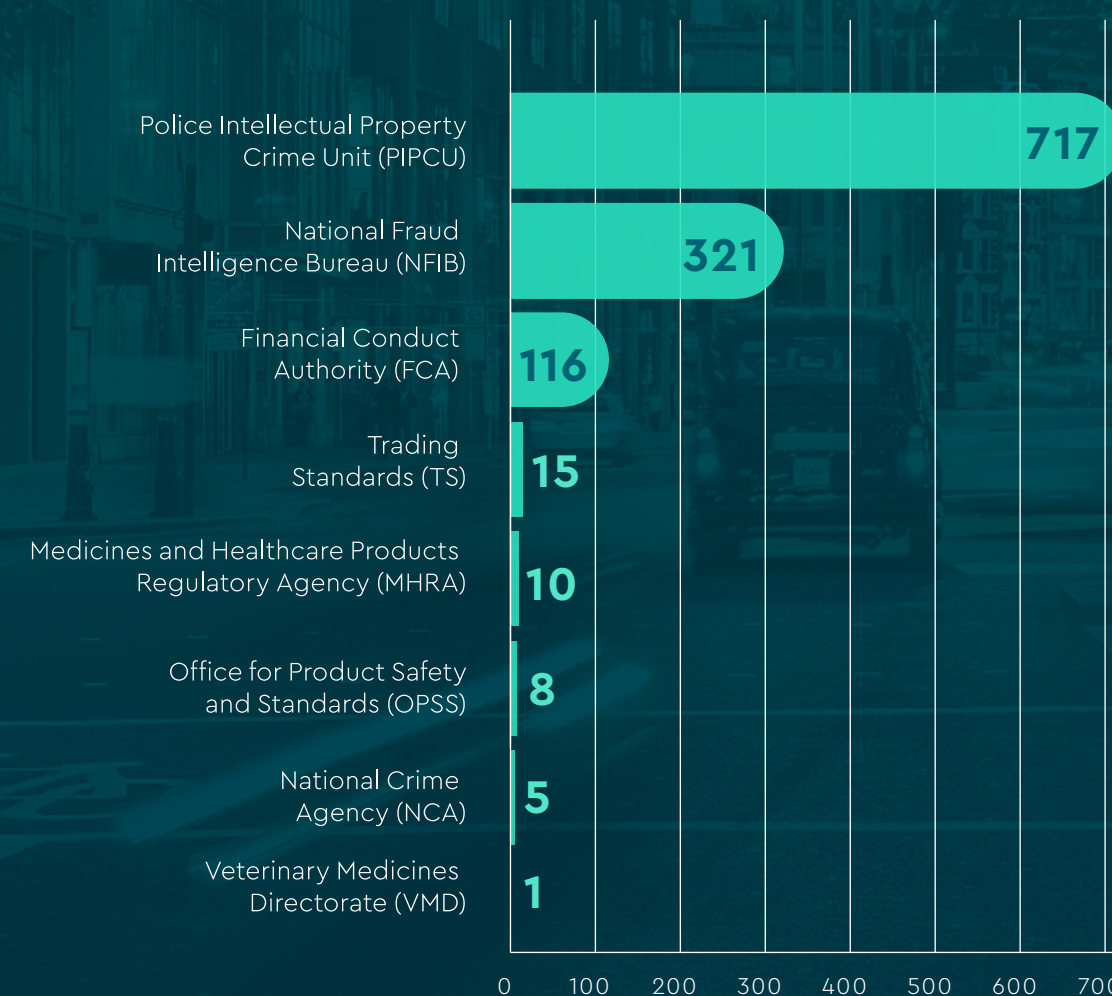
VMD

Veterinary Medicines Directorate

OPSS

Office for Product Safety and Standards

BREAKDOWN OF SUSPENSIONS BY REPORTING AGENCY



Includes 13 domains that were suspended for criminal activity and were redirected, as part of our landing pages pilot. This pilot ceased in September 2023.

DOMAIN WATCH

Nominet's anti-phishing initiative is designed to quickly identify and suspend newly registered domains that are potential phishing attempts. The domains listed are examples of the domains identified through Domain Watch.

PRIVATE SECTOR

- santanderonlinesecurity.co.uk
- banklogin.co.uk
- vodafone.co.uk
- exeter-gov.uk

PUBLIC SECTOR

- hmrc-self-assessment-gov.co.uk
- hmrc-govs.uk
- fraud-gov.uk
- nhsgov.uk
- finance-gov.uk
- dvl.gov.uk



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DOMAINS SUSPENDED

THREAT FEEDS

This year we continued our efforts to tackle abuse in .UK to include existing domain registrations that appear on threat feeds. Using third party data we have investigated 3116 reports on .UK domains, which were flagged as potential phishing, malware, fake webshops, command and controls or cryptocurrency scams. Of these threat reports, 2230 led to domain suspensions.



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To understand more about Nominet's collaboration with UK law enforcement, read our Criminal Practices Policy, available at nominet.uk/policies