

SEPTEMBER 2013 COMMUNIQUÉ

Nominet's Board of Directors met on 3rd September 2013.

Board Matters

The Board thanked members for their support at the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd July, noting that the constitutional reforms had all passed and that the Board's recommendations on director re-appointment had been endorsed. Nonetheless the Board recognised the significant minority disagreement with the strategic direction set by the Board, and resolved to continue positive dialogue in order to address those concerns.

Clive Grace stood down as Senior Independent Director following the conclusion of a two year term, and Sebastien Lahtinen was appointed as new Senior Independent Director. The Board thanked Clive for his work in this post. Clive continues as an appointed non-executive director and chair of the Audit Committee.

Company Matters

The Executive reported the formal completion of the infrastructure transformation project, closing on schedule and under budget. The project has delivered on all its major goals, with new infrastructure in full use across two data centres for increased performance and resilience. The project has subsequently been nominated in the Network Infrastructure Project of the Year category of the BCS and Computing UK IT Industry Awards.

The launch plans for the .wales/ .cymru domains were discussed and pricing options considered following previous public consultation and discussion with Nominet's Welsh Advisory Group.

Financial Matters

The budget for the financial year commencing 1 October 2013 was presented by the Chief Operating Officer and the Director of Finance. Following discussion and debate the budget was approved.

On the basis of the surplus made in the year to 30 September 2013, the Board approved a donation of £6m to the Nominet Trust, the company's charitable foundation.

Policy Matters

The Board was updated on the progress of the ongoing .uk Registrar Agreement consultation and second level registration in .uk consultation (closing 23rd September). All stakeholders in .uk who have not yet submitted the views are encouraged to do so.

The Board also discussed the issue of whether Nominet should be restricting offensive or otherwise inappropriate words or expressions in .uk domain names. The Board welcomed the appointment of Lord Macdonald QC as the independent chair of a new policy review to consider this question.

Upcoming Events

October 22-25: Internet Governance Forum, Bali
October 31: Annual Parliament & Internet Conference

Operational Statistics

As at 31 August 2013 there were 2856 active members and 4674 active tags. Since the end of July 2013, 3 new members have joined. The number of new registrations in August 2013 was 151,414 (Aug 2012 147,633.) The average renewal rate for the past 12 months (to May 2013) was 66.5%. The total number of names on the register as at 31 August was 10,574,652 and the net growth of the register for the last 12 months was 3.6%.