



NOMINET

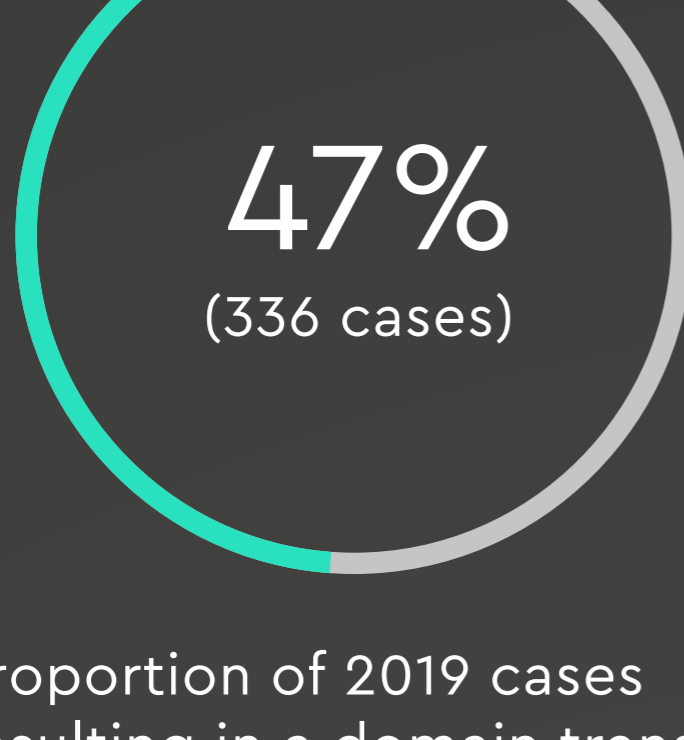
# 2019 IN .UK DOMAIN DISPUTE RESOLUTION



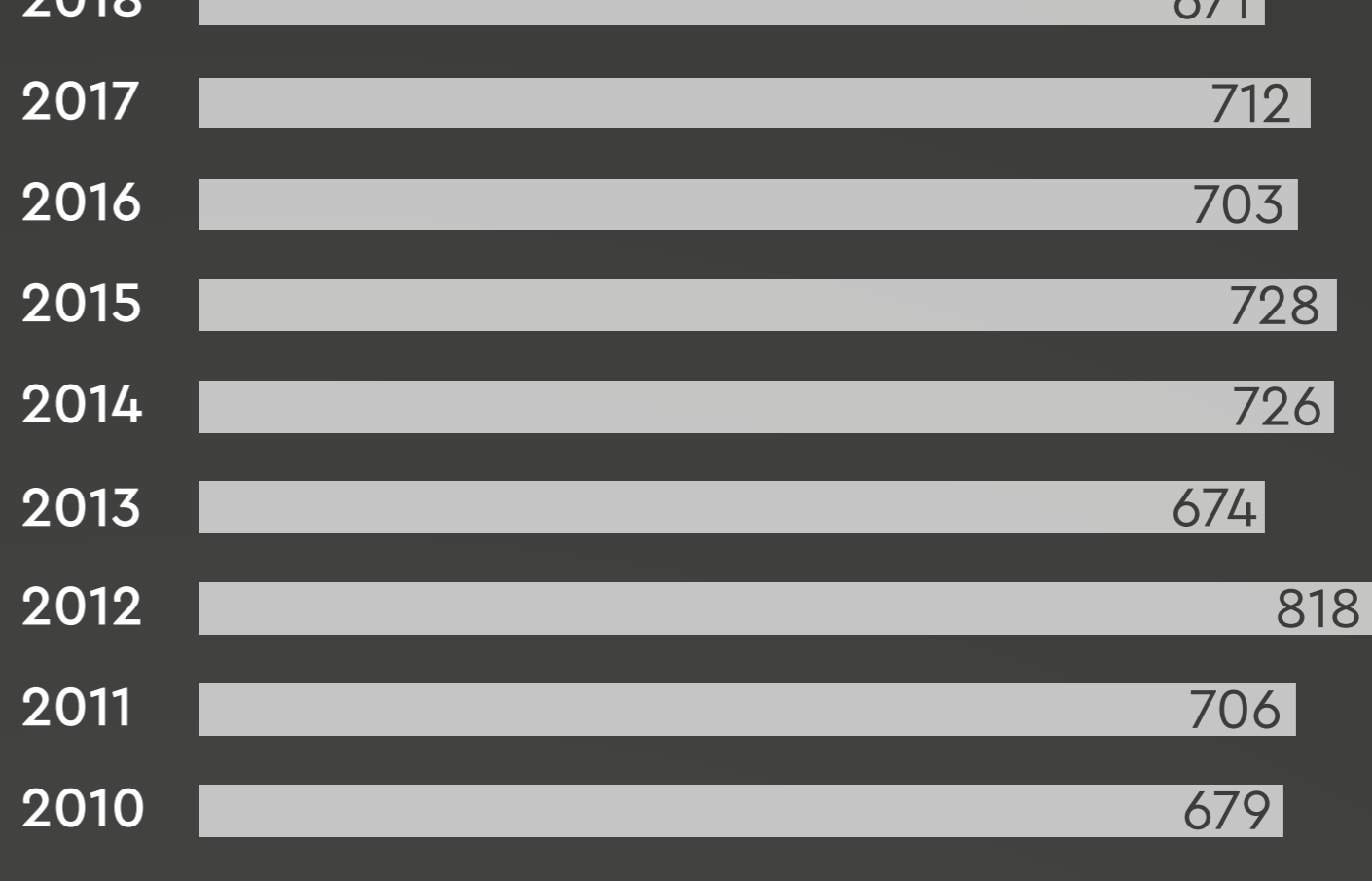
Our Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) offers an efficient and transparent method of resolving disputes relating to .UK domain names.

The DRS seeks to settle disputes through mediation and, where this is not possible, through an independent expert decision.

## COMPLAINTS MADE



Proportion of 2019 cases resulting in a domain transfer



Court costs avoided in 2019

£ 6,100,000



Assuming court & legal fee savings of £15,000 per complaint that progresses into formal dispute resolution.

## NOTEWORTHY CASES



### ebuygumm.co.uk

The complaint was made by eBay Inc and Gumtree.com Limited, and the Respondent provides an online selling platform. The Respondent claimed that the domain name is derived from a well known 'minced oath' from Yorkshire in the north of England. The Expert agreed that ebuygumm.co.uk "contains at most a faint allusion to the Complainants' trade marks", but was not the sort of thing that an internet user looking for either eBay Inc or Gumtree.com Limited would enter in error. Outcome: No Action



### balmain.uk

The Complainant was Pierre Balmain SA, the renowned Paris fashion house. They had used the DRS in 2012 with regards to balmain.co.uk, with a No Action decision being upheld by an appeal panel. The balmain.uk domain name was registered 30 seconds after being made available after a Right of Registration reservation expired, and a web site containing sponsored links relating to fashion soon appeared. This materially distinguished the facts of the cases, with the shorter .uk domain name being awarded to Pierre Balmain SA this time round.



### taunton-angling.co.uk

The domain name had been registered by a member of the Taunton Angling Association between 2000 and 2019, when it was cancelled. As is often the case, it was then re-registered within 24 hours. Taunton Angling Association then decided that in fact they did want to retain the name. Luckily for them the Respondent only made contact with an offer to sell the domain name after their Response deadline had passed, and a Summary Decision had awarded the transfer.



### groupon.uk

The Complainant was Groupon Inc, the global e-commerce marketplace. This domain name was registered within 25 seconds of being made available after a Right of Registration expired. The Expert agreed that the Respondent's use of the domain name constituted unfair disruption of Complainant's business when it was used to redirect internet users to a commercial website selling various beauty, fashion, health, grooming and lifestyle products.

## COMMON INDUSTRIES



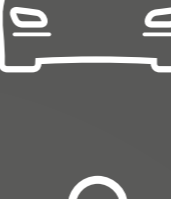
Retail 10



Banking & Finance 8



Food, Beverages & Restaurants 9



Automotive 6



Internet 9



Fashion 5

The most common industries for complaints. Note this is only for full decisions.

## DISPUTED DOMAIN NAMES BY SUFFIX

	.co.uk	.org.uk	.me.uk	.uk	.sch.uk	.net.uk
2019	628	33	2	136	1	1
2018	687	34	1	41	0	0
2017	687	46	4	46	0	0
2016	716	34	3	32	0	0
2015	686	30	3	26	0	0
2014	685	37	0	12	0	0

Please note, a DRS complaint may involve more than one domain name.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF COMPLAINANTS AND RESPONDENTS

In 2019 the DRS saw cases brought by complainants from 26 countries, with respondents from 41 countries. Here are the top ranking countries for complainants and respondents:

### COMPLAINANTS

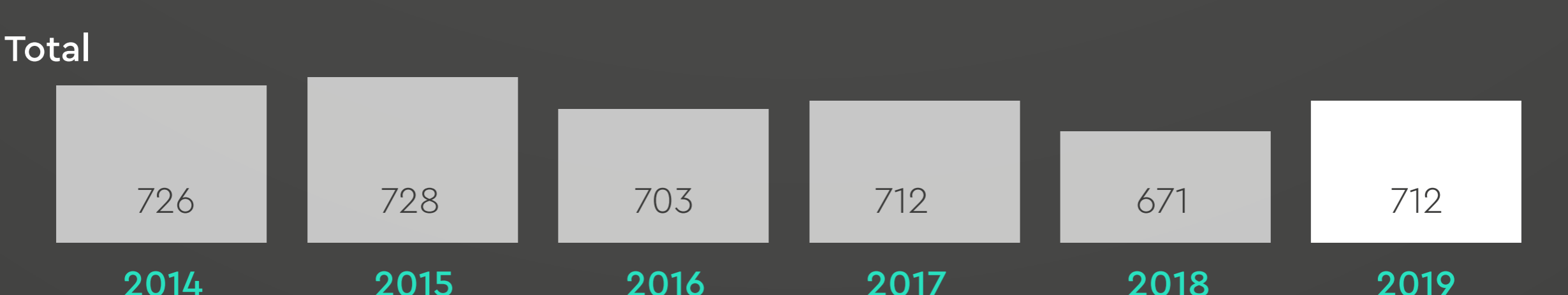
### RESPONDENTS

UK (511)	1	1	UK (485)
US (46)	2	2	US (37)
France (21)	3	3	China (12)
Spain (6)	4	4	India (8)
Switzerland, Italy (5)	5	5	Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan and St Kitts & Nevis (7)
Canada, Netherlands (4)	6	6	Spain (6)
Sweden (3)	7	7	Australia, Bulgaria, Canada and others (4)
Czech Republic, Ireland, Cayman Islands (2)	8	8	France (3)

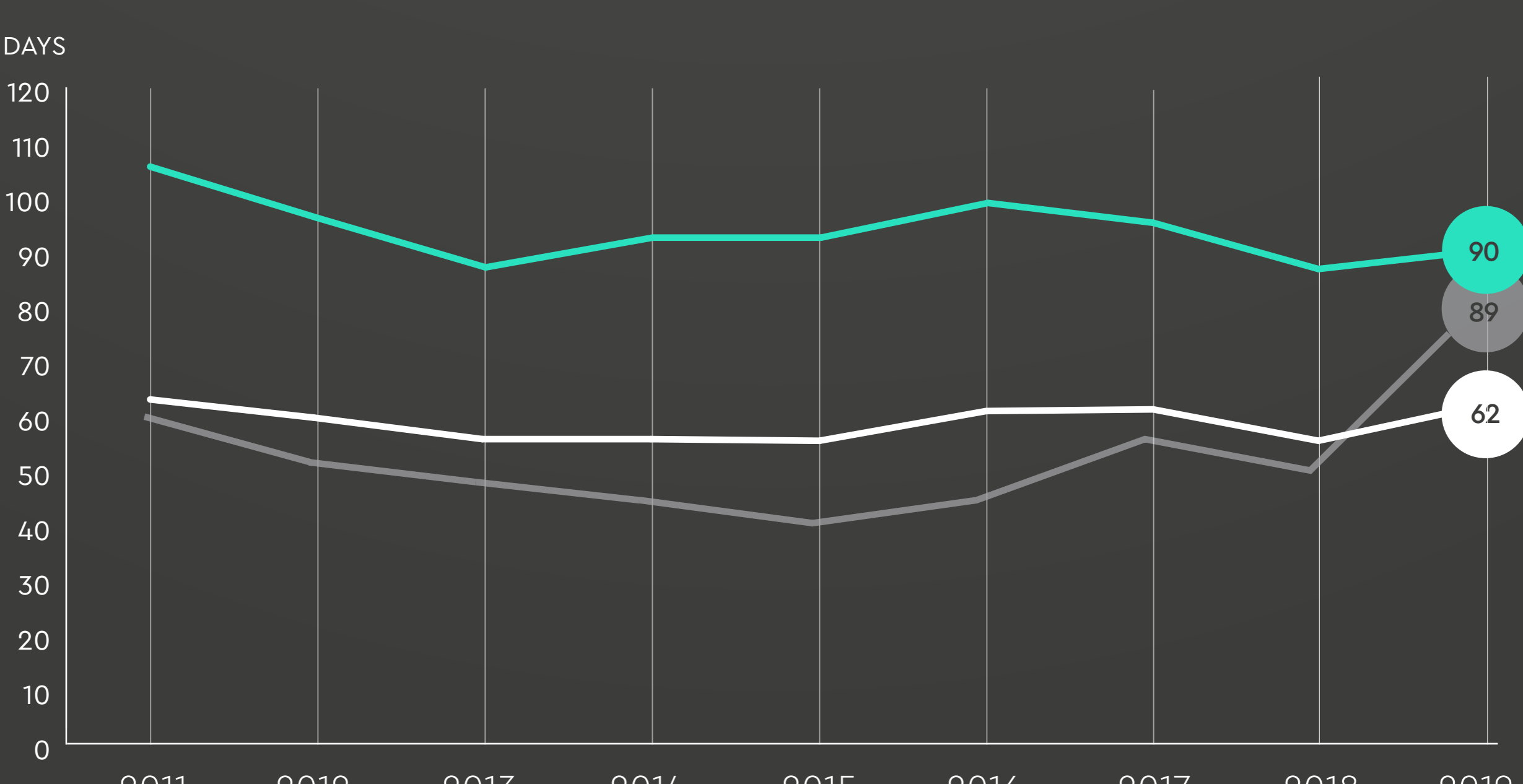
## CASE OUTCOMES



	Resolved by parties	Mediation	Summary decision	Full decision	Appeal	Overturned	Upheld	Invalid	Withdrawn	Fee not paid	Open
2019	99	90	150	85	2	2	0	70	81	130	5
2018	97	93	136	81	1	0	1	75	64	117	7
2017	106	77	184	108	3	1	2	72	40	122	0
2016	71	110	187	112	6	1	5	49	47	121	0
2015	93	160	168	90	6	2	4	73	45	93	0
2014	130	127	145	99	0	0	0	56	80	89	0



## AVERAGE CASE DURATION



## ABOUT NOMINET

Nominet is driven by a commitment to use technology to improve connectivity, security and inclusivity online. For over 20 years, Nominet has run the .UK internet infrastructure, developing an expertise in the Domain Name System (DNS) that now underpins sophisticated network analytics used by governments and enterprises to mitigate cyber threats. The company provides registry services for top level domains. A profit with a purpose company, Nominet supports initiatives that contribute to a vibrant digital future.

All decisions are made public via [Nominet's website](#).

## ABOUT THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICE

Nominet's Dispute Resolution Service has addressed through the DRS, 13,000 .UK domain disputes since being established in 2001. To make a complaint through the DRS, you need to have rights (such as a trade mark) in a name which is the same or similar to the domain name you are concerned about. The DRS can usually provide a quicker and cheaper resolution to disputes than going through the courts as this service is based on free, confidential mediation. In the event of deadlock, complainants can pay to appoint independent experts from a panel to make a binding adjudication. Nominet does not profit from running the DRS, the fee for decisions is paid to the Expert for their time adjudicating disputes.

## FIND OUT MORE

More information about the DRS is available at [nominet.uk/disputes](#).

