

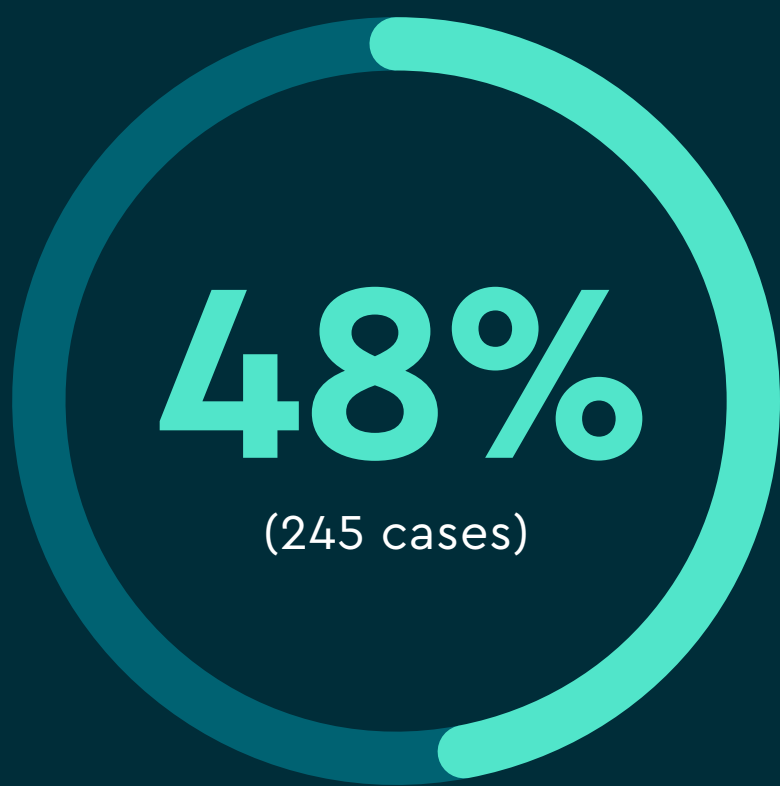


.UK DOMAIN DISPUTE RESOLUTION 2023

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.

PROPORTION OF 2023 CASES RESULTING IN A DOMAIN TRANSFER



NOTEWORTHY CASES THIS YEAR

EXANTE.CO.UK

The complainant was XNT Ltd., a company based in Malta offering financial and investment services. The respondent was The Hut.com Ltd, namely its brand of diet foodstuffs which had trademarks registered in 2007 and 2013 on the brands Exante and Exante Diet.

The Complainants claimed the domain in question was used in a manner unfair to them and that they didn't grant the Respondent any licence, or other authority, to use their trademark. The Complainants made allegations of bad faith and unfair disruption of its business against the Respondent, which were not properly supported by evidence.

The Expert was not persuaded, under the balance of probabilities, that bad faith could be attributed to the Respondent as their trademarks predate the Complaints. In fact, the Expert concluded that the case was brought forward by the Complainants in bad faith and a finding of Reverse Domain Name Hijacking was made.

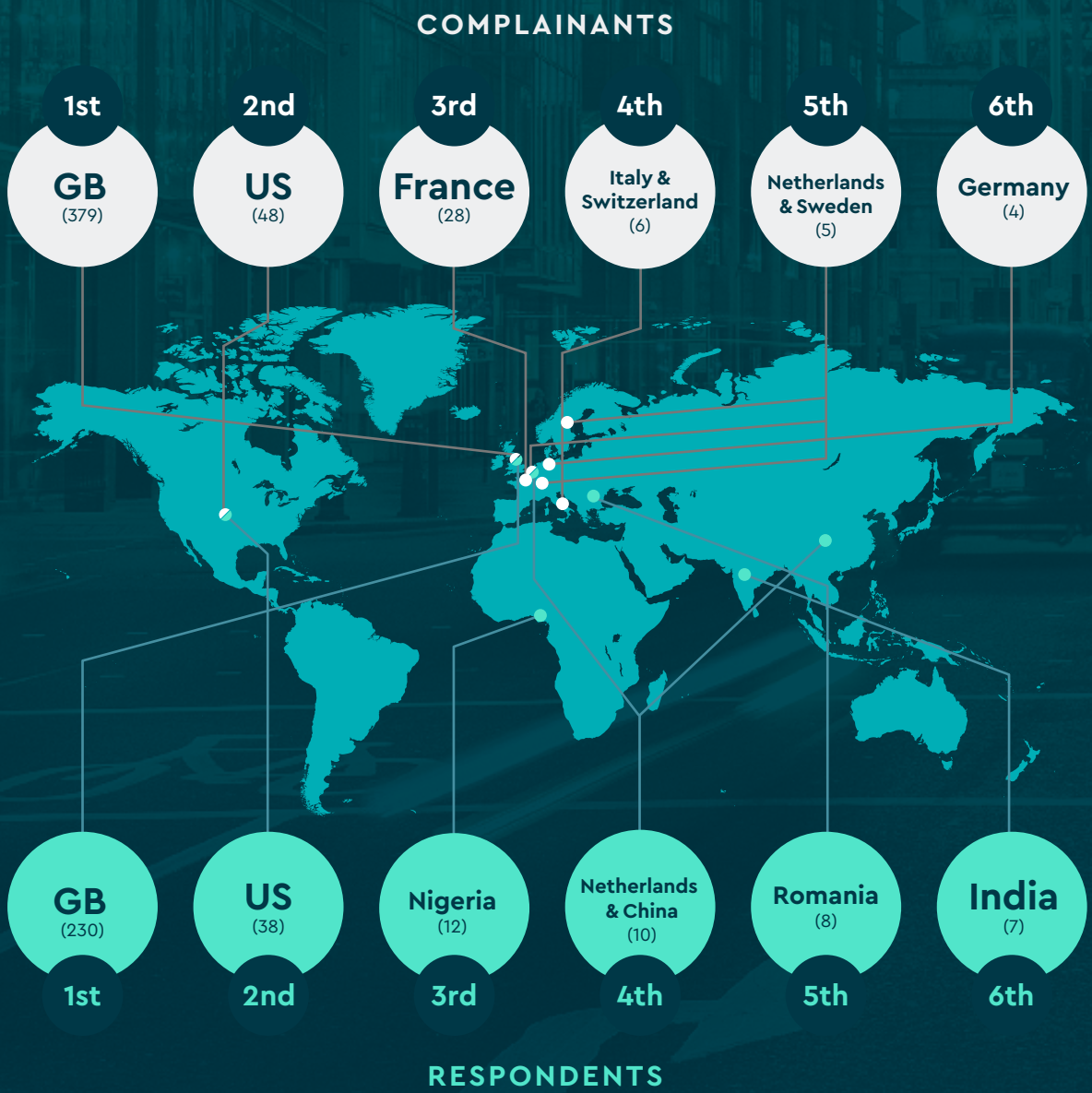
GENERALELECTRICCOMPANY.CO.UK

The Complainant was General Electric Company (GE), originally set up as a merger between Thomas-Houston Electric Company and Thomas Edisons, Edison General Electric Company in 1892. The Respondent was IEA Global SAP Consultants - General Electric Company Ltd, established in June 2020. The Respondent decided to register a match to an existing US company so old that it was set up by Thomas Edison himself – what you might call a 'lightbulb moment' in a case.

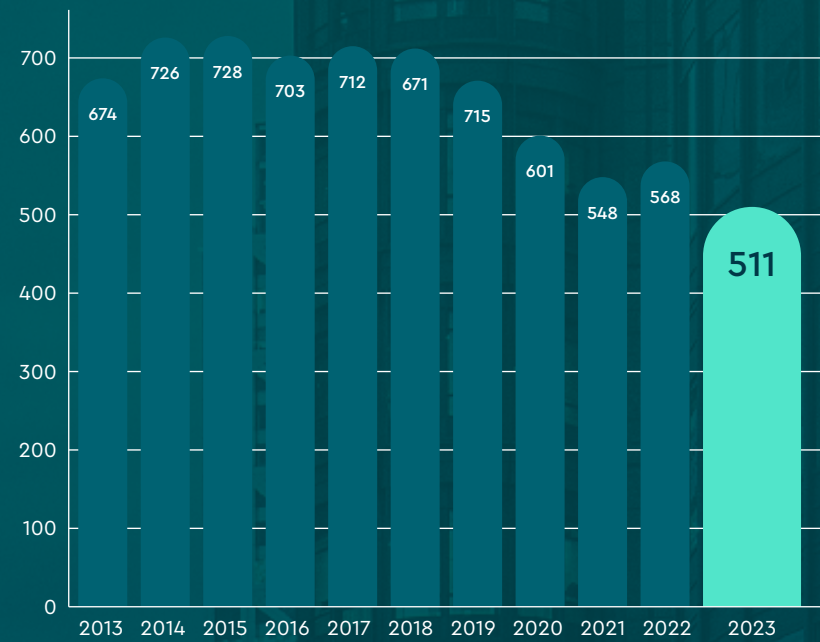
The Expert poses the question raised in the DRS Policy: Can an overseas right constitute a relevant right within the definition of Rights? In this case the Expert believed so. The Expert states there is likely to be Initial Interest Confusion between the two General Electric Companies and awarded the domain name to the Complainants.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF COMPLAINANTS AND RESPONDENTS

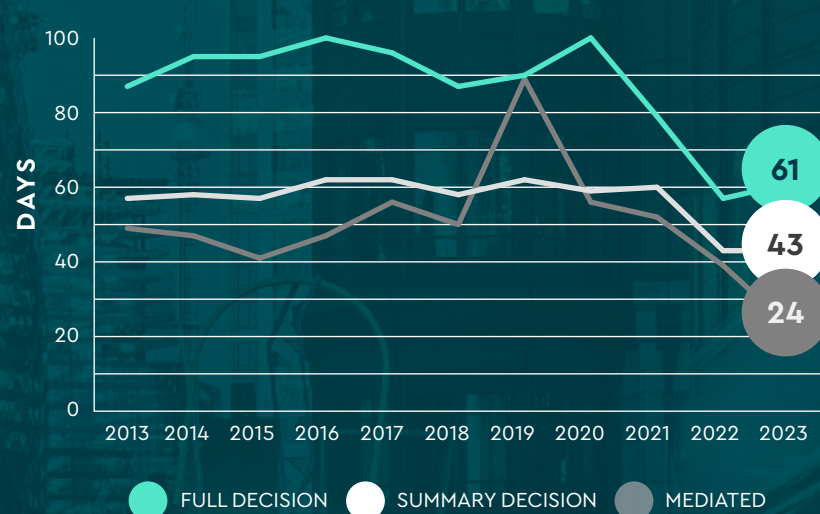
In 2023 the DRS saw cases brought by complainants from 31 countries, with respondents from 37 countries. Here are the top ranking countries:



COMPLAINTS MADE



AVERAGE CASE DURATION

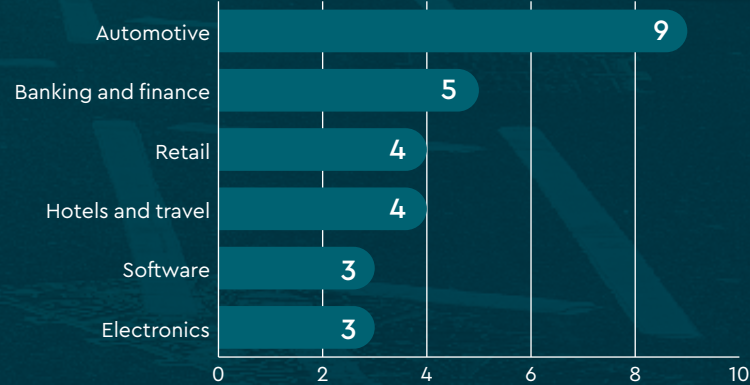


COURT COSTS AVOIDED IN 2023

£7,225,000

Assuming court and legal fee savings of £25,000 per complaint that progresses into formal dispute resolution.

MOST COMMON INDUSTRIES



CASE OUTCOMES FOR 2023



DISPUTED DOMAIN NAMES BY SUFFIX

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
.co.uk	411	609	529	525	628	687	687	716	686	538
.org.uk	18	44	20	30	33	34	46	34	30	18
.me.uk	0	4	0	1	2	1	4	3	3	2
.uk	79	66	74	71	136	41	46	32	26	122
.sch.uk	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
.net.uk	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
.plc.uk & .ltd.uk	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

ABOUT NOMINET

Nominet is a public benefit company, driven by a commitment to use technology to improve connectivity, security and inclusivity online. Since 1996, Nominet has run the .UK internet infrastructure, developing an expertise in the Domain Name System (DNS) that now underpins sophisticated threat monitoring, detection, prevention, and analytics that is used by governments to mitigate cyber threats. Our social impact programme provides funding, support and opportunities to help tackle some of the most important digital issues facing young people in the UK today. Learn more on nominet.uk.

ABOUT THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICE

Nominet's Dispute Resolution Service has addressed over 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.