

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

How we're facilitating digital NHS services

GET CONNECTED: Good Things Foundation connects 1,300,000 people with digital support

CLOSING THE SKILLS GAP: Institute of Coding reflects on Click Start journey

CRIMINALS BEWARE: How law enforcement clamps down on illegal activity on .UK

FIGHTING
ONLINE HARMS

SHAPING INTERNET
GOVERNANCE

INVESTING IN
TECHNOLOGY

GIVEHUB
ROUND-UP

THE IMPACT ISSUE

ISSUE 1 | AUGUST 2025

MICRO:BIT MAGIC

Join us for a trip around the UK and see how this tiny device is taking computing lessons by storm

HELPING HIDDEN VICTIMS

Go behind-the-scenes with IWF analysts combatting online abuse

.GOV.UK, UPGRADED

How we're supporting the services that serve us

nominet

FOREWORD

Welcome to the first edition of The Impact Issue. This is Nominet's new annual rundown of how our work is benefitting society. If you're a member or have purchased a .UK domain, you helped make all of this possible.

We've taken a streamlined approach to our Annual Report and Accounts – so we've made sure The Impact Issue brings you up to speed on the way Nominet contributes to society.

We've recently announced that in the years ahead we'll be focusing more closely on our registry and DNS expertise, and that includes how we select and fund our public benefit programmes. As our four flagship public benefit programmes that have run over the last few years are coming to an end, it's fantastic to see the results, and you will get to read about plenty of these stories in this edition – with all of these initiatives delivering a legacy in their own way.

There's the inspirational story of former submarine navigator and his journey to becoming a digital entrepreneur, thanks to our Click Start programme, in association with the Institute of Coding. You can also find out just how far our micro:bit – the next gen programme has spread across the UK, made possible by our funding. This initiative also picked up its first trophy at a prestigious technology award event. We're also looking back over the last three years of our support for the UK Safer Internet Centre, and how this tackles the online harms that affect many of us – but receives limited funding.

While Nominet members have helped make all of this possible, we also look at the work of our Members' GiveHub, which made 18 grants in the last year, and can support even more worthy causes in the future.

Looking ahead – there's lots to come, including an exciting new public benefit funding initiative focused closer to home on the technology that powers the internet. We look forward to telling you more about that when we're able to.

I hope you'll agree that we cover a lot of ground in the pursuit of playing a positive role in the digital economy and our society at large.

Thanks,



Paul Fletcher
Nominet CEO

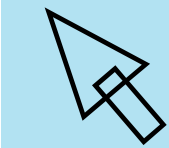
Editor: Samantha Curtis
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How our members can make a difference

OUR REGISTRY

For a medium-sized company, we pack a big punch. Here's just a snapshot of how we, and our members, contribute to the wider industry and economy - and keep .UK running for everyone who needs it.



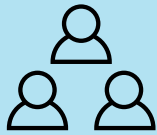
We manage over
10m
domains



And over
85
top-level domains for
some of the world's
leading brands



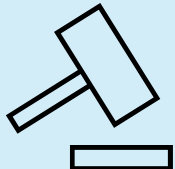
Working with over
2,300
registrars



Supporting over
2,000
members

Emergency Back-End Registry Operators

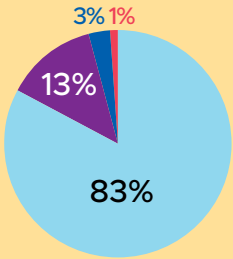
We're one of only two Emergency Back-End Registry Operators (EBERO), recognised by the global industry regulator as having the experience, processes, policies, and systems needed to provide emergency operations in the event of another registry failing.



We work with **14**
law enforcement agencies
to take criminal activity off
the .UK namespace

Happy birthday .UK

The .UK domain celebrated its 40th birthday in 2025 and remains one of the world's most popular ccTLDs.



- .co.uk domains
- Shortened .uk domains
- .org.uk domains
- me.uk, sch.uk, ltd.uk, net.uk, plc.uk



Each month, we
receive around
135,000
new .UK domain
name registrations



Our Dispute Resolution
Service saves businesses
an estimated
£8,150,000
each year

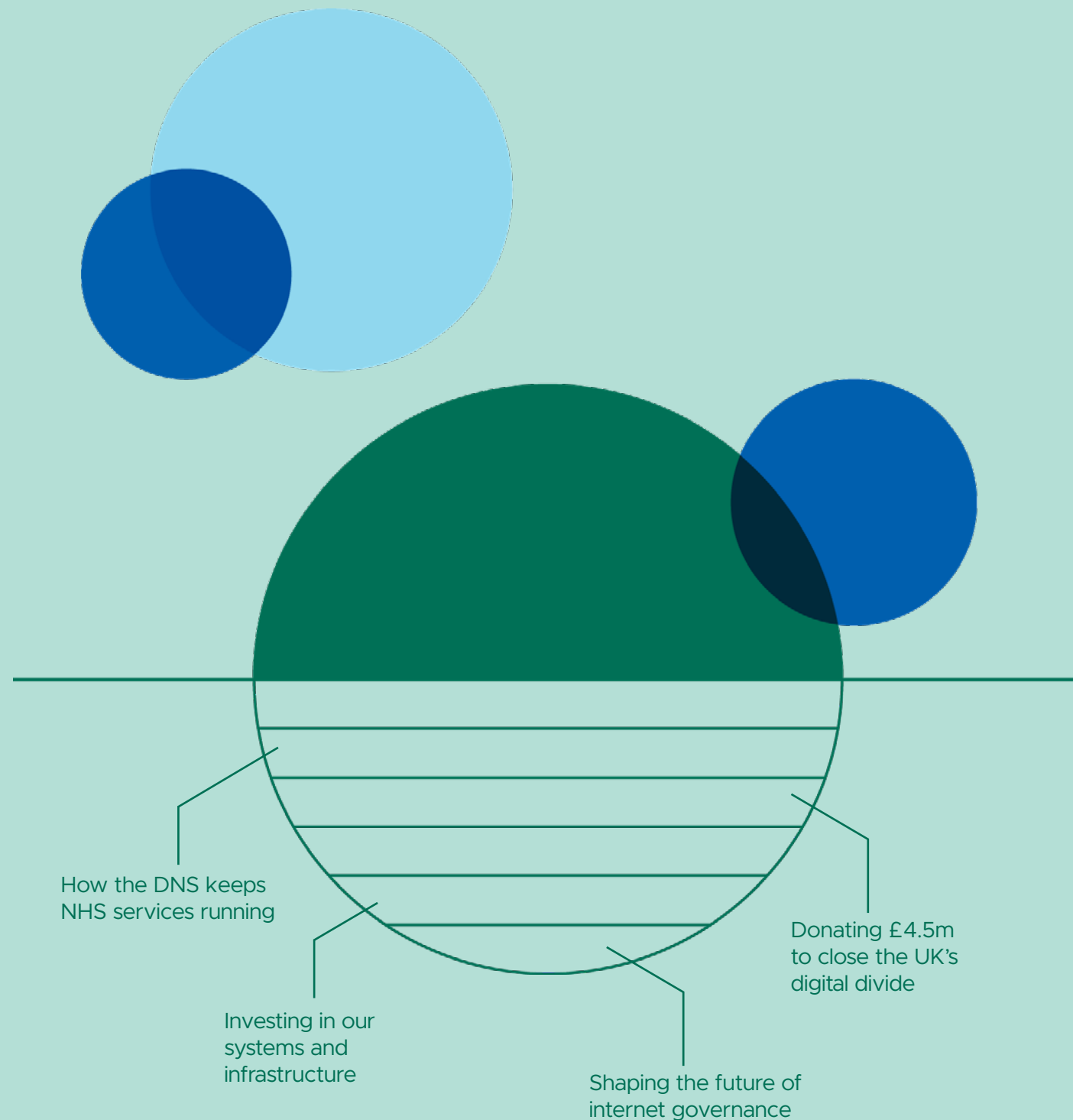
In our last financial year,
our domain renewal rate is **77%**



The .UK registry
typically handles
**65,000
to 75,000**
queries per second
and handles over
1.9 trillion
queries in a year

CONNECT

We connect people in the UK to each other, to businesses and to the world. We provide the strong and reliable link they depend on to live, work and play.



A NEW TECHNOLOGY PRESCRIPTION for the NHS in England



Our Head of Customer Success and Operations, Mayuresh Walke, takes us through our work with the NHSE and how we're keeping its digital services running.

The Health and Social Care Network (HSCN) lets health and care organisations share electronic information quickly and easily. It helps the NHS use the latest digital technology to keep everything running smoothly. This includes managing important IT systems that support appointments and treatment. Without HSCN, it would be much harder for these services to share important information. One of the key things HSCN does is provide DNS. Without it, systems would not operate correctly.

For someone working within the NHS in England, the DNS means their emails work and they can access all the critical healthcare systems they need to do their job. Without HSCN DNS, which Nominet now operates in partnership with Insight, none of these systems would be reachable.

Crucially, this could be a life-or-death situation. Any DNS downtime could impact how quickly ambulances can be dispatched or emergency surgeries scheduled if critical information can't be accessed. It's why DNS is viewed as so vital to National Health Service England (NHSE). It can't afford to malfunction. Delivering critical systems is second nature to Nominet. We've collaborated closely with NHSE to ensure our service meets their needs, as well as their risk profile.

Thanks to fantastic teamwork and planning across Nominet and NHSE teams, and its key suppliers, the complex transition went smoothly, with no noticeable impact on NHS staff or service users. We truly appreciate everyone's efforts. The team here are excited to continue our close partnership with NHSE, supporting its mission to modernise this vital service at the core of NHS IT systems.



What is the Domain Name System?

DNS allows IP network users to use website names instead of IP addresses.

For example, a user typing www.nhs.uk into a web browser will get to the website because DNS tells the user's computer that www.nhs.uk is actually at IP address 217.64.234.65.

DNS also lets operators move servers around without you noticing. The name stays the same, but the actual address can change behind the scenes.

Inside the system

- The NHSE team has a tough job managing DNS records for NHS England. Mistakes or outages can have serious consequences. To help them, we've built them a DNS portal. This tool will help the team make important changes each week to keep NHS operations running smoothly.
- Nominet has teamed up with NHSE and its partners to tightly integrate the DNS service we operate into the HSCN. This collaboration boosts reliability and ensures smoother, more consistent performance.
- Our recent investments into our .UK registry tech platform means that DNS services are spread out across different locations in the UK. This means that when an NHS user's computer asks for a website address, the nearest and fastest server answers the request. This helps NHS staff get the information quickly and efficiently.
- The Nominet team will integrate with NHSE's security teams and systems to help them spot any anomalies in network behaviour, and we'll use DNS to proactively combat cyber threats.

WINNING THE VOTE FOR .GOV.UK



Our Registry Services Specialist, Gordon Dick, gives an update on the .gov.uk contract, and how it works behind the scenes.

We're proud to have been chosen as the trusted partner to manage the .gov.uk registry. This means we'll be playing a critical role in keeping vital national services and infrastructure operating, safe and secure.

This achievement came after a rigorous competitive tender process through the government's NS3 framework. The transition to our management marks the culmination of a five-year journey aimed at bolstering the .gov.uk registry's security and resilience and the start of a new approach in meeting internationally recognised DNS standards.

Now, we'll be stepping into a more visible role, supporting .gov.uk registrars and Government Digital Service (GDS) as they work to modernise .gov.uk. This new role is a natural extension of the technical support we already provide for other important domains like .cymru, .wales and .uk.

This contract is significant because it ensures that the digital infrastructure behind essential public services remains secure and reliable. This helps protect the services we all rely on, from local council to central government, making our everyday lives safer and more efficient.

Do you want to register a .gov.uk domain?

The GDS has set out specific rules to become a registrar:

- **Sign the Registry-Registrar Agreement:** Registrars are required to sign a new Registry-Registrar Agreement with Nominet and comply with its terms. This agreement ensures that registrars adhere to the standards and requirements set by Nominet and GDS.

Then, registrars need to follow these steps:

- **Get approval:** Use the "Get approval to use a .gov.uk domain name" service run by the GDS.
- **Receive a token:** Once the application is approved, GDS will provide a token.
- **Use Nominet's system:** Use the token in Nominet's system to create the domain. This ensures that the domain is properly registered and managed under the .gov.uk registry.

How are we involved?

Public sector support: The .gov.uk registry encompasses around 5,000 public sector domain names. Our role is vital in maintaining the integrity and functionality of these domains, ensuring they continue to serve the public effectively. We helped GDS build confidence across central government in the transition, ensuring that when a general election was announced for the week following the transition date, confidence remained high and the transition went ahead as planned.

Security and standards: Our new role involves meeting internationally recognised DNS standards and adhering to the National Cyber Security Centre's Cyber Assessment Framework (NCSC CAF) standards.

Cybersecurity focus: A primary focus of the GDS Domains team is to prevent and address domain-related cyber vulnerabilities. We're excited to bring our expertise to this area, helping to safeguard the .gov.uk domain against potential threats.

Phased migration plan: To ensure a seamless transition, we teamed up with the Central Digital and Data Office (CDDO), the predecessor of GDS, and conducted five comprehensive workshops. These sessions were crucial in laying the groundwork for a smooth handover.

How does it work?

The government tender was tailored to build on industry experience and ensure that the registry could evolve alongside the domain name industry.

A domain registry operates five critical functions to ensure the internet works:

1. **A Shared Registry System (SRS)** - a centralised system that allows different registrars to connect to it using the Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) to create, update, renew or delete domains. This ensures a competitive market exists in service to government bodies.
2. **Registration Data Directory Service (RDDS)** - a public free lookup service to determine who a domain is registered to.
3. **Domain Name System (DNS)** - the critical infrastructure that allows domain names to be used to reach websites.
4. **DNSSEC** - a technology allowing authentication of DNS responses.
5. **Escrow or backup** - ensuring copies of data are stored safely in case of an emergency.

In addition to the technical functions, we have a role in providing support to registrars and registrants of .gov.uk domain names as well as taking payments and enforcing policies set by GDS.

The transition onto Nominet's existing robust and scalable infrastructure is only the first step in evolving the .gov.uk registry. We're working with GDS to develop a range of checks into the heart of our registry systems that will help registrants, via their registrars, identify quickly a range of errors in their DNS configuration that will need correcting to enhance the resilience and security of the .gov.uk namespace.

INNOVATING FOR IMPACT: Our tech journey



Our Chief Technology Officer, Oliver Tweedie, tells us how Nominet's investment into its own technology will give back to our members, partners, and the wider internet industry.

As the core of the UK internet, Nominet has a responsibility to ensure the .UK domain remains reliable, secure, and able to support the growing and changing needs of businesses and the public.

Cyber security threats, regulatory pressures and other external factors are constantly changing, requiring us to adapt and improve over time.

We need to continue to evolve so our infrastructure can keep up. We'll never forget that we have the UK internet in our hands.

That's why, in the last two financial years, we've invested over £17m into our infrastructure to keep the registry and our services world-class.



Best of British

While we've embraced the public cloud, we've also created a secure "home base" with UK-based data centres, designated as Critical National Infrastructure (CNI). This set-up ensures our platforms meet the highest standards of security, resilience, and operational integrity.

Furthermore, it allows us to utilise cutting-edge technologies like AI, while keeping control and sovereignty over our most sensitive data and services. It's the best of both worlds.

Bringing .UK in line with industry standards

We're modernising our registry software to meet industry standards, bringing major benefits to registrars integrating with the .UK platform. This means better support and an improved experience for their customers.

Our goal is to make the .UK domain the "best on the map" with low domain abuse, excellent customer experience, and high-value services. With an updated registry platform, we can do just that – potentially expanding the use of our registry platform to other countries and domain extensions and investing in cutting-edge tech like AI and large language models to boost our software capabilities.

Modernising our platforms

We've upgraded our public and private cloud infrastructure to leverage multiple cloud provider capabilities. This upgrade lets us tap into different platforms and technologies, optimising for cost, performance, and the latest innovations. The added agility from this approach means we can adapt to changing market conditions and meet our customers' evolving needs.

Keeping attackers at bay

We've upgraded our security defences to address the latest in cyber-attack methods, such as increased phishing, ransomware, and other threats. This aligns our infrastructure and operations with the new Cyber Security and Resilience Bill, ensuring compliance and keeping us a trusted provider of critical services.

What's the Cyber Security and Resilience Bill?

This new legislation is aimed at helping counter cyber threats by raising standards around critical national infrastructure assets, including data centres.

We've made major investments in our platforms and data centres to align with upcoming legislation, ensuring we are well-positioned to meet the new requirements.

UNITING A GLOBAL COALITION

To shape the future of internet governance



Our Policy and Public Affairs Lead, Alishah Shariff, explores how Nominet is helping to secure the future of multistakeholder internet governance through a new Technical Community Coalition for Multistakeholderism (TCCM).

Since joining Nominet, I've heard many people say that we're at an inflection point for the future of internet governance. There are lots of factors feeding into this: from increased calls for strengthening the role of multilateral organisations – such as the UN and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) – to powerful actors continuing to defend their political and economic interests through the formation of technical standards and protocols.

Against this backdrop, there are also two important UN processes in progress - one that took place in 2024, and one upcoming in 2025. The first of these was the Global Digital Compact (GDC), a roadmap for the future governance of the internet and digital technologies, which was agreed at the Summit for the Future in September 2024. The latter is the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) which, as well as looking at the broader digital development agenda, will entail a decision on whether the mandate for the UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF) should be extended.

Although UN processes provide the opportunity for non-governmental stakeholders to contribute views, the drafting and negotiation of the outputs of these processes is ultimately a matter for UN Member States.

At Nominet, we acknowledge this but continue to believe that it's important for all stakeholders – including the technical community – to champion the multistakeholder approach and participate in shaping the future of internet governance. Not doing so risks decisions being made without the transparency and accountability, which the **multistakeholder approach** demands, and could potentially undermine the open, free, global, secure, resilient and interoperable internet we want to see. This is where a TCCM comes in.

A Technical Community Coalition for Multistakeholderism

Nominet, along with our partners at auDA (Australian registry) CIRA (Canadian registry) and InternetNZ (New Zealand registry), saw the need for a forum through which we could keep each other posted on the latest developments and provide a joined-up, technical community voice in dialogues about the future of internet governance. The value of our small group soon became clear, and we decided to move from an informal coalition to a Technical Community Coalition for Multistakeholderism (TCCM) aimed at defending and improving the multistakeholder model of internet governance, with a **Statement of Purpose** that others could sign up to.

A TCCM has since grown to include 42 members, made up of ccTLDs, gTLDs, regional TLD groups, registrars and national and regional registries for internet numbers. It provides a space where aligned organisations can come together to share insights and develop joint positions, which can then be shared as part of UN stakeholder consultations and with national governments that are negotiating outputs as part of UN processes. The TCCM delivered several statements on drafts of the GDC, emphasising the need to maintain the multistakeholder model of internet governance, advising against the duplication of new fora to implement the GDC's commitments, and calling for stronger references to the WSIS architecture as a space for follow-up and implementation.

As someone new to internet governance, I have greatly benefitted from the Coalition and the expertise of colleagues with longstanding experience in the field. Having a network has also meant having more ears to the ground, which has been helpful in trying to understand the sometimes opaque UN processes and how best to feed in.

As we look to the future, I hope the Coalition's membership continues to grow to include wider geographic diversity. This will be particularly important as we look to the WSIS+20 process, which is about the broader digital development agenda. I'm also excited to see how we can continue to harness the group's expertise and come up with proactive suggestions on how to make internet governance processes work more effectively, leading to practical action that delivers for all global users of the internet.

If you're a ccTLD, gTLD, regional TLD, registrar or national/regional registry for internet numbers and are interested in joining the coalition, please feel free to contact us via this [webform](#).



"Nominet as a leading ccTLD registry is an important and influential stakeholder in internet governance. Its contribution to the formation of this coalition adds real influence and significance to the group's work. "This coalition is important because without it, there hasn't been a shared voice for the interests of organisations like Nominet or auDA in the global debate about the future of internet governance. I've been pleased and surprised with the amount of common ground there is, and the willingness of people to put their shoulders to the wheel and get into the work."

Jordan Carter, Internet Governance and Policy Director at auDA

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

across the Nation

Good Things Foundation is the UK's leading digital inclusion charity. They're on a mission to help everyone become digitally equal, able and safe. We've supported their mission for a number of years, but in 2023 we became a strategic partner - donating £4.5m over three years so they could accelerate their strategy to tackle the UK's digital divide.

Two years in, let's take a look at the incredible difference the organisation has made to lives across the nation.



Connectivity support

Over **120,000** people supported

to learn new digital skills through Good Things Foundation's Learn My Way platform.

Over **313,000** data packages issued

to those who need them through the National Databank.

87% of supported people feel more digitally able and/or safe

92% of supported people feel happier, healthier and/or better off

Tech redistribution

Over **20,000** devices

given to those who need them through the National Device Bank.

81 organisations have donated devices to the National Device Bank

Since Good Things Foundation launched the National Device Bank it has:

Diverted over **128,000kg** of e-waste from landfills

Prevented over **13 million tonnes** of CO2 emissions contributing to a greener future

Network scale

Connected over **1,300,000** individuals with support exceeding its target of 1 million

The National Digital Inclusion Network has grown to over **7,700** Digital Inclusion Hubs

Good Things Foundation



Got devices to spare? Scan me

By partnering with Good Things Foundation, your organisation can go beyond traditional IT asset disposal or disposition services by donating devices for reuse – giving your old tech new life for people who can't afford or access their own.

Better together

We're proud of our progress with Good Things Foundation over the years. In 2020, we teamed up to respond to the critical shortage of digital access during the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns with the 'DevicesDotNow' emergency appeal.

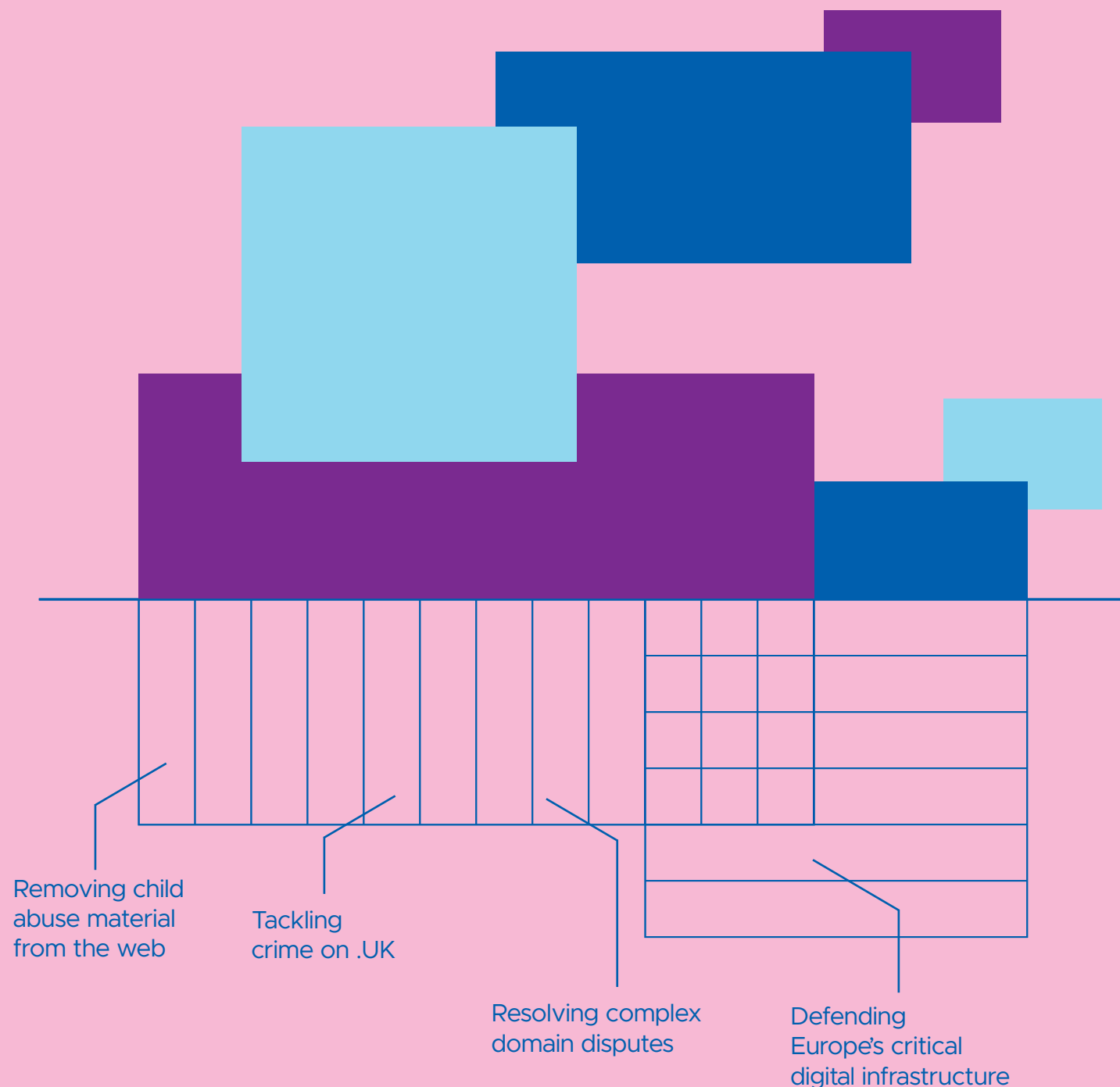
And In 2021 we launched the ground-breaking Data Poverty Lab, which helped develop the National Databank. This project also successfully launched a fellowship scheme producing multiple innovative reports exploring ideas, advocacy and action on data poverty that have engaged senior leaders in national, regional and local government.

The National Digital Inclusion Network is made up of over 7,000 organisations across the UK. These organisations, called Digital Inclusion Hubs, are all working to fix the digital divide in their local communities.

These organisations serve as local safe spaces where digitally excluded people can get free support to get connected. Hub members can offer Good Things Foundation's digital inclusion services such as free mobile data through the National Databank and beginner digital skills training through Learn My Way.

PROTECT

We use our expertise to keep people, businesses, and UK plc safe. Our work helps to keep public services resilient for everyone who relies on them.



HOW OUR FUNDING FIGHTS ONLINE THREATS



Our Social Impact Lead, Adam Groves, gives an update on some of our key online harms initiatives.

Launched publicly in 2019, Nominet's Countering Online Harms Innovation Fund (The Innovation Fund) responds to an alarming increase in illegal online harms affecting children.

Taking online child sexual abuse material (CSAM) as an example, data from the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) shows that in 2024, the IWF acted to remove images or videos of children suffering sexual abuse, or links to that content, on 291,270 webpages. Each page can contain at least one, if not hundreds or thousands, of images and videos. This is the most child sexual abuse webpages the IWF has ever discovered in its 29-year history and is a 5% increase on the 275,650 webpages identified in 2023.

Turning the tide on this trend will require brave policy and societal changes. Whilst Nominet's social impact partners work tirelessly to achieve these, they also need support to respond to the immediate crisis. Child protection organisations face a continuous struggle to keep pace with the ever evolving and growing nature of the threat.

Put simply, the current regulatory context enables perpetrators to innovate much faster than organisations working to keep children safe. The Innovation Fund has responded to this challenge by equipping leading child protection organisations with flexible grants for innovation. This is the only sustained innovation fund in the UK that is dedicated to countering illegal online child harms.

Already, thanks to this fund...

- Due to upgrades to its Intelligrade system, the IWF can identify and take down child sexual abuse imagery **112% faster than before** and ensure that **every victim is counted** in the CSAM they assess.
- Working with the **Lucy Faithfull Foundation**, we're generating pioneering evidence on what works to deter people from searching for child sexual abuse - and enacting it on the world's biggest websites.
- With Parent Zone, we're understanding – for the first time – the scale and nature of **Child Financial Harms in the UK**, and developing new support for children and parents, and lesson plans and resources for PSHE lessons will now directly address these harms.



In FY26 and beyond, we are intensifying our commitment to championing a safe, secure, and resilient internet. We will launch new grants, and fund new projects that strengthen the infrastructure and ecosystem necessary to maintain a secure internet for all.

This section of the report features insights from individuals working on the front lines to safeguard the UK's internet, and their stories illustrate the significant impact of our efforts. We hope this shines a light on the incredible work of our partners, and we look forward to sharing more about our initiatives in future Impact Issue editions.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN IWF ANALYST

Since 2018, Nominet has funded the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF). Over the last three years, we've supported the IWF to develop technology that helps streamline the vital job of identifying and combatting child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

We spoke to ***Andrew at the IWF** for a behind-the-scenes look at how they use cutting-edge technology, specialised expertise, and a strong support system to combat the scourge of online CSAM.



How do you take care of each other?

If we're having a difficult day or feeling the impact of the content we encounter, we're encouraged to take breaks and longer lunches. We have a breakout room and counselling services for support.

Our team is a mix of experts in different fields, which allows us to share the workload and emotional burden.

Though the work is challenging, it's rewarding to know we're preventing the repeated victimisation of children, even by removing just one image. Our sense of purpose and the importance of our work keeps us strong.

In the morning I...



Check the URL list

Every morning, we tackle a list of reported sites from the previous night. This list can have anywhere from 300 to 3,000 URLs hosting CSAM. The team divides and conquers these reports.



Verify UK-hosted sites

We prioritise checking if these sites are hosted in the UK using tracing tools. If they are, we act fast to get them taken down. Making sure the UK is a hostile place for hosting CSAM is a top priority.



Triage public reports

Next, we review public reports, focusing on UK-hosted sites or cases involving underage victims first. High-priority reports are escalated, and we guide victims to get the help they need.



Input all images into Intelligrade

Whenever we action a URL or webpage, images and videos of confirmed child sexual abuse are scraped and uploaded into the Intelligrade system so that they can be turned into hashes and graded by our expert team of assessors.



Handle member and law enforcement requests

We then go on to process email requests from member organisations and law enforcement.

In the afternoon I...



Search proactively

We split our time – half the team tackles reports one day, while the other half dives into proactive searching the next. This means actively hunting for CSAM on forums, chat sites, commercial sites, and even the dark web, using our specialised knowledge.



Work with QA

All assessments of child sexual abuse material are reviewed by our IWF quality assurance team to ensure its accuracy. A new feature in Intelligrade*, Multichild, further improves the precision of our data as it allows assessors to count every victim in an image, meaning that no child is effectively hidden in the process.



Train and refine

We're constantly learning and refining our processes, as new trends and threats emerge – such as the increasing use of AI-generated content. We provide presentations and training to members, law enforcement, and other hotlines to share expertise and knowledge.

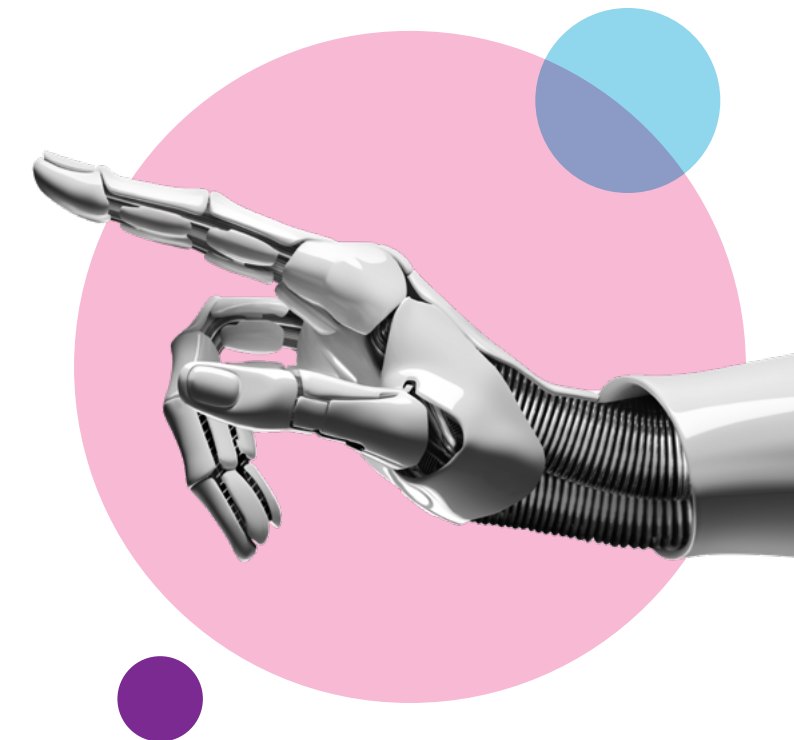
How is AI changing your job?

We're excited about AI's potential to automate more of this process, helping our analysts "see less but remove more" and easing their workload. For example, thanks to Nominet's funding, our **clustering technology** links similar images, allowing hotline teams to swiftly assess and grade hundreds of criminal images for quick blocking and removal.

We're also focused on reliably identifying AI-generated imagery as it becomes more realistic. This ensures that all images of child sexual abuse are captured, no matter the method of creation.

The public is given this advice when making a report to [iwf.org.uk/report](https://www.iwf.org.uk/report):

- Do report images and videos of child sexual abuse to the IWF to be removed. Reports to the IWF are anonymous.
- Do provide the exact URL where child sexual abuse images are located.
- Don't report other harmful content – you can find details of other agencies to report to on the IWF's website.
- Do report to the police if you're concerned a child may be in immediate danger.



What is Intelligrade?

Funding from Nominet has helped develop the powerful Intelligrade tool that enables IWF assessors to accurately grade child sexual abuse images and videos, while automatically generating unique hashes (digital fingerprints) which are used to identify and eliminate these images wherever they appear.

* Names have been changed to protect the identities of those involved



LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD:

Our work with the UKSIC



Adam Groves, Social Impact Lead, reflects on the last three years of our work with the UK Safer Internet Centre.

During the COVID pandemic, lockdowns had us all stuck at home – meaning school, work and socialising moved online. For children and young people, this was especially hard. Cut off from their friends, the internet provided a lifeline to stay connected.

But as children's screentime escalated, so did the threats they were exposed to. By late Spring 2020, charities were sounding the alarm, pointing to dramatic increases in incidents of online harm to children. In just a short space of time during lockdown (March 23rd – July 9th 2020) the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) saw a **50% rise in reports** from the public of child sexual abuse material online (CSAM), and then a **1,000% increase in sexual abuse imagery** involving primary school children.

Compounding this problem, the UK's centre of excellence for children's online safety – The UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC) was facing a financial crisis. Following Brexit – and the loss of EU funding, there was a “funding blackhole” that would leave “millions of children at risk of worse online abuse”. Right when the need was at its greatest, one of the UK's leading entities protecting children was also having to focus on keeping the lights on.

The UKSIC plays a crucial role in keeping children and families safe online. It removes illegal content, runs emergency helplines for victims, provides schools with essential online safety resources, and much more. No wonder leaders from across industry, law enforcement and education were worried – writing to the Prime Minister to express their concern about its precarious situation.

We were already backing Safer Internet Day (organised by UKSIC) every February and had previously partnered with the three charities behind the centre. We had funded SWGfL's award-winning Project:Evolve, a free online digital literacy toolkit used by over 15,500 schools. We also supported Childnet's Digital Leaders' Programme, bringing online safety training to schools in deprived areas. And we funded IWF's tech team to develop new ways of removing CSAM from the internet. We knew they delivered excellent work, which was now more vital than ever.

So, in 2021, we stepped in and pledged £5.1 million to help fund UKSIC for the next three years as part our commitment to shape an internet that's safer, more interconnected and inclusive for all.



“

With Nominet's support over the last three years the UKSIC have been able to reach more children and young people than ever before, with our Safer Internet Day celebrations going from strength to strength, and our free resources and advice reaching educators, parents, carers and young people across the UK. Nominet's support also enabled us to champion youth voice, so critical to issues around online safety, helping our own work to be relevant and engaging to this audience. There is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that the internet is a great and safe place for everyone, and we see the UK Safer Internet Centre's role as being vital to this. We will continue to work with others across the UK to help keep young people informed about, and safe from, the issues affecting them online – whatever these may be.

”

Will Gardner OBE,
CEO of Childnet and Director
of the UK Safer Internet Centre

Throughout our three-year partnership, Nominet's funding supported many initiatives, including:



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day continues to grow, and in 2025 it reached **more than half of UK school children**. The majority of teachers reported that it led to important disclosures about safeguarding issues. By encouraging open discussions, the day helps uncover hidden risks and enables protective interventions for vulnerable children.



Removal of harmful images

The UKSIC has enabled the removal of millions of illegal and harmful images online. In 2024, the Revenge Porn Helpline handled **22,275 reports** of content for removal. Meanwhile the child sexual abuse hotline processed **over 300,000 reports, flagging 2.2 million child abuse images** for blocking and removal, since it was founded.



Long-term improvements

UKSIC has driven long-term improvements to children's safety, through better practices and policies. They've informed the Online Safety Act (a new set of laws that protects children and adults online), shaped DfE's standards for school filtering and monitoring, and contributed to new legislation and the first cyberflashing arrest.



Invaluable insights

UKSIC is also leading on responding to new challenges, such as sextortion and AI-generated CSAM. It's shared invaluable insights into emerging trends, and coordinated industry, government and civil society to take action.



How can you get involved?

- **Spread the word:** Share UKSIC resources on social media to help reach more people.
- **Boost your skills:** visit its [advice centre](#) or [book an online safety session](#).
- **Join Safer Internet Day:** Everyone can take part in [Safer Internet Day](#), the UK's largest awareness-raising campaign to help promote the safe and positive use of technology.

What's next?

March marked the end of our three-year grant to the UKSIC. Our partnership may have come to an end in its current form, but with our latest strategy to focus on internet safety inside and outside of Nominet, we will continue to work with - and support - the UKSIC. Our collective commitment to keep the UK's children safe online is resolute, and both Nominet and the charities behind the UKSIC remain laser-focused on realising an internet that's safe for all.

Whilst the need to protect children online is as great as ever, the passing of the Online Safety Act in the UK has transformed the landscape for organisations in this space – demanding new collaborations, strategies and ways of working.

“

The support of Nominet over the past three years has allowed the UK Safer Internet Centre to continue to fight against the ever-evolving harms that are consistently affecting children, young people and adults across the UK. We must extend our sincere thanks towards Nominet for supporting our work in protecting people online – this collaboration has allowed us to extend our reach and give individuals the essential help they require. Technology will continue to develop and we all have a responsibility to fight to keep our online spaces safe – the UK Safer Internet Centre will continue to be a essential lifeline for those who need it most and we thank Nominet for supporting us with our ongoing mission.

”

David Wright CBE
Director of UK Safer Internet Centre

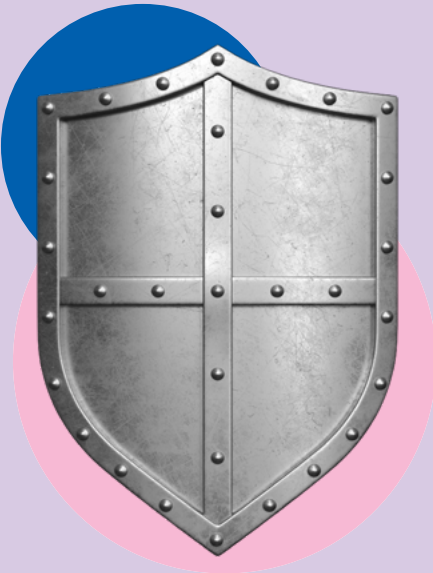
TACKLING ONLINE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

1 November 2023 - 31 October 2024

Nominet operates at the heart of the UK’s internet infrastructure, responsible for running the .UK domain.

We work with law enforcement agencies and our members to help protect internet users from criminality online.

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



913 Domains suspended for criminal activity under our Criminal Practices policy



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



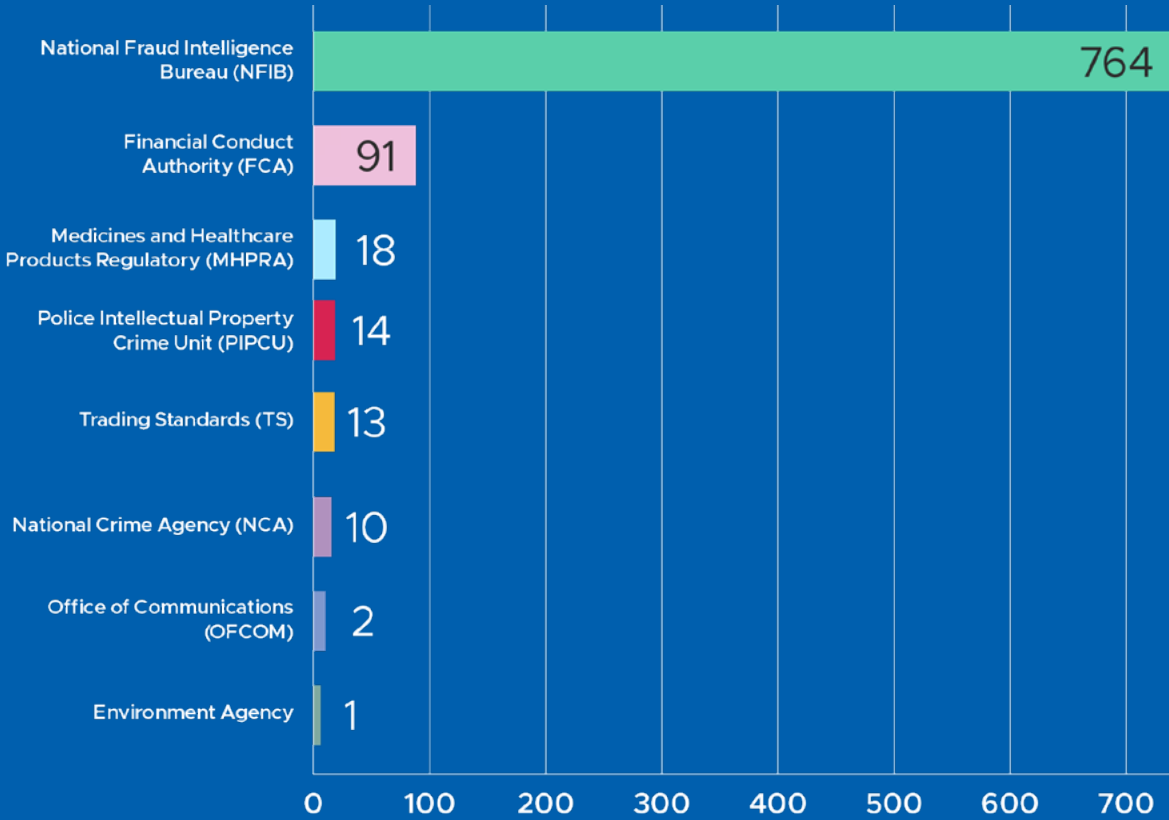
Nominet makes administrative checks



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

Breakdown of suspensions by reporting agency

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



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

OPSS - Office for Product Safety and Standards

PIPCU - Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit

TS - Trading Standards

VMD - Veterinary Medicines Directorate

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 1,012 potential breaches were flagged, no domains were suspended.



16 Suspension reversals



0 Requests not resulting in suspension



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.



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.

Public Sector

- cabinet-officegov[.]uk
- thegov[.]uk
- tax-gov[.]uk

Private Sector

- account-o2[.]uk
- vodafone.co[.]uk
- paypal.org[.]uk
- alert-santander.co[.]uk
- hotmailmail.co[.]uk
- bbcbco[.]uk,
- barclays-notify.co[.]uk
- hsbcukbank[.]uk
- fcamail-org.co[.]uk

4,349 Domains suspended



Domain Abuse Activity Reporting

6,315 Domains suspended

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 8,820 reports on .UK domains, which were flagged as potential phishing, malware, fake webshops, command and controls or cryptocurrency scams. Of these threat reports, 6,315 led to domain suspensions.

CRIMINALS BEWARE:

How we're working with law enforcement to stamp out crime on .UK



Detective Chief Inspector Emma Warbey, Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU) at City of London Police, gives us insight into the success of Operation Ashiko, and the criminality trends it's monitoring on the .UK namespace.

Working closely with Nominet, the City of London Police has agreements in place to suspend illicit websites within the .UK namespace that breach our terms and conditions without needing a Court Order. This is under Operation Ashiko – an initiative from the Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU) that creates a safer environment for consumers to shop online without purchasing counterfeit, dangerous and illegitimate products within the UK branded online marketplace. It prevents, detects, and disrupts criminal activity. We've been working on Operation Ashiko from day one - in 2013, PIPCU was getting a growing number of reports of counterfeit websites from a number of sources..

"Criminals were increasingly utilising the internet as a sales tool, as it enabled them to target previously unattainable victims using professionally designed, realistic websites," comments Detective Chief Inspector Emma Warbey, PIPCU at City of London Police. "The websites had the sole purpose of deceiving people into believing they were buying legitimate goods from a genuine brand.

over
120,000
domains
suspended
by PIPCU

Numbers provided by PIPCU, and are across all domains under Operation Ashiko

"Customers who paid for items would not receive anything or, if their products did arrive, they were of significantly inferior quality. In other cases, customers would have their data gathered and sold on to other criminals." Because of this pattern, Operation Ashiko was born.

At Nominet, we're proud of our continual collaboration with law enforcement, which is evidenced in our work with PIPCU and the targeted crackdown on organised crime gangs that operate counterfeit sites. Deeper relationships with law enforcement enable us to regularly discuss potentially malicious activities as they're uncovered – allowing us to work out how to tackle them together.

No single organisation can be effective in tackling an issue of this scale alone. DCI Warbey reminds us that "any response to intellectual property crime must include not only law enforcement agencies, but the private sector as well. These relationships are vital, as many of our partners in the private sector have considerable reach within investigative companies, legal channels and lawyers. They also have dedicated researchers and analysts, who can delve deep into specific issues related to intellectual property crime and provide intelligence that we can link together".

"Our work with Nominet plays a core function in protecting the intellectual property of brands and rights holders. It creates a safer environment for consumers to shop on the .UK online marketplace without purchasing counterfeit, and potentially dangerous, products."

"Any response to intellectual property crime must include not only law enforcement agencies, but the private sector as well. These relationships are vital."
– Emma Warbey, PIPCU

This joint success has now led to an expansion of Operation Ashiko. In 2021, after PIPCU cleared the .UK domain tree almost entirely of counterfeit websites, it was able to look at clamping down on crime elsewhere: "Operation Ashiko now focuses on other top-level domains (TLDs) such as .com. This enables us to target illicit websites in every country and prevent criminals who used the .UK domain tree from shifting towards using other domains." And since its inception over ten years ago, PIPCU has suspended 120,000 domains across all the domain trees now included in Operation Ashiko.

“

Recent advances in generative AI tools also allows criminal and threat actors to mass produce realistic looking websites and related communications.

- Mayuresh Walke, Nominet

”

While the .UK domain might be considered "almost clear" of crime – it doesn't mean the job is getting any easier.

"Criminals are using new tools and techniques," adds Mayuresh Walke, Nominet's Head of Customer Success and Operations. "What we've seen is that threat activity and online behaviours are becoming far more sophisticated, moving towards building websites for the purposes of deploying malware or carrying out ransomware attacks.

"There's especially been a shift from the "smash and grab" activities – like crude fake shops – to more subtle activity that tries to stay undetected for as long as possible. Recent advances in generative AI tools also allows criminal and threat actors to mass produce realistic looking websites and related communications.

"It is also crucial these malicious domain registrations and websites are detected early to minimise harm, which we continue to invest time and effort into alongside our law enforcement partners and .UK registrars. As part of keeping the .UK namespace safe, registrants also need to have ID to purchase a domain. Nominet is continually working to improve its verification processes and working closely with .UK registrars to ensure this remains robust and is continually improving."

Meanwhile, PIPCU has seen an increase in organised criminal groups outside of the UK and Europe using hosting companies with a European presence that have host 'shell' companies registered with formation agents in the UK: "These hosts register templates of legitimate brands' websites with multiple registrars," Warbey tells us.

"The copied websites are targeted to different countries by their top-level domain (TLD) extensions and naming formulas. They appear to offer legitimate goods but, in reality, they are often phishing sites with malware, which enables criminals to gather personal and financial data to utilise for further illegal activity."

But what do you do if you spot any of these? Warbey says: "We encourage registrants to stay vigilant to the threat of their details being used to create counterfeit websites. If you suspect that a website has been registered using your details, report it to Action Fraud, the National Cyber Security Centre or your local police force. Other regulatory bodies like the Financial Conduct Authority, Trading Standards and Companies House should also be consulted."

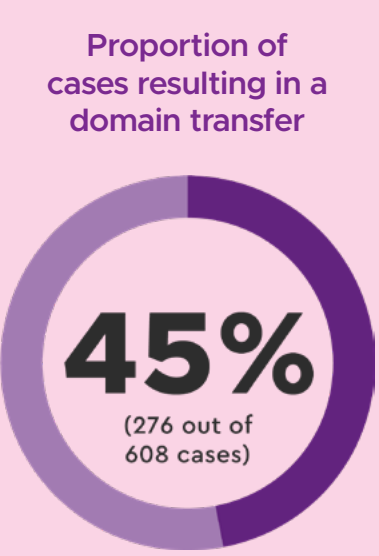
And, of course, if you are concerned about any criminal activities occurring on .UK domains, feel free to reach out to the team at abuse@nominet.uk for advice and support.

.UK DOMAIN DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1 November 2023 - 31 October 2024

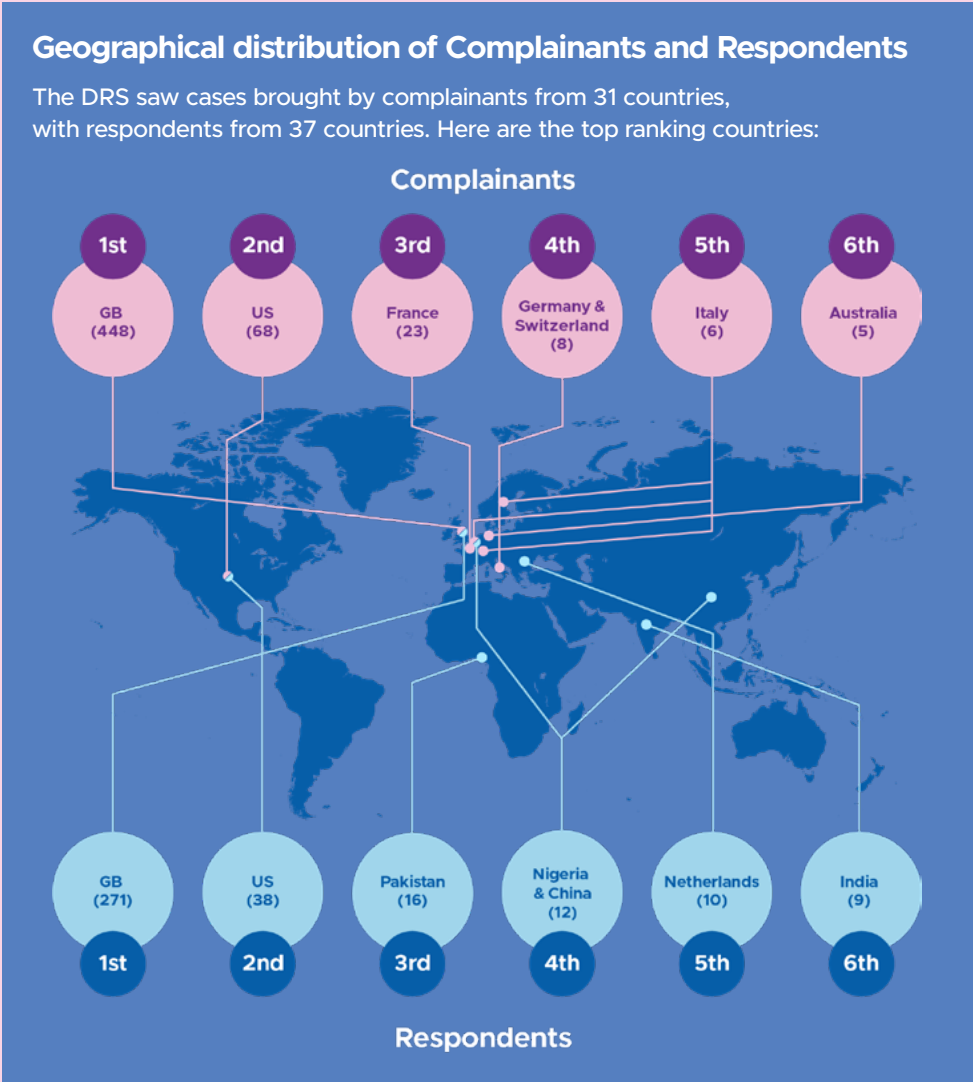
Our Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) offers an efficient and transparent method of resolving disputes relating to .UK domain names.

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



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're concerned about.

More information about the DRS is available at nominet.uk/disputes



Noteworthy cases this year

rightmovecommercial.co.uk

The Complainant, Rightmove Group Ltd., provides a real-estate portal that allows property searches. It has rights to the "RIGHTMOVE" trademark and argued that the domain name, which added only "commercial" to the end, was too similar.

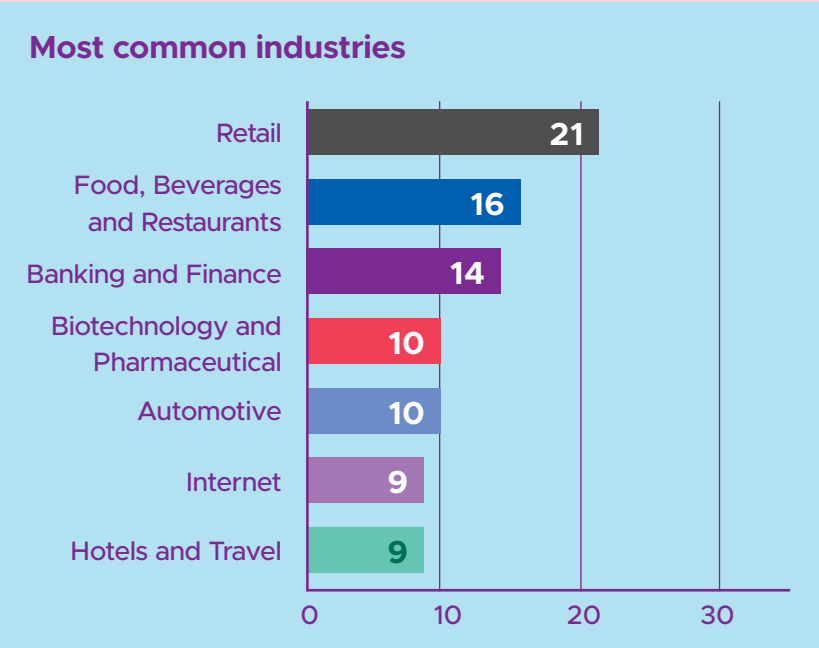
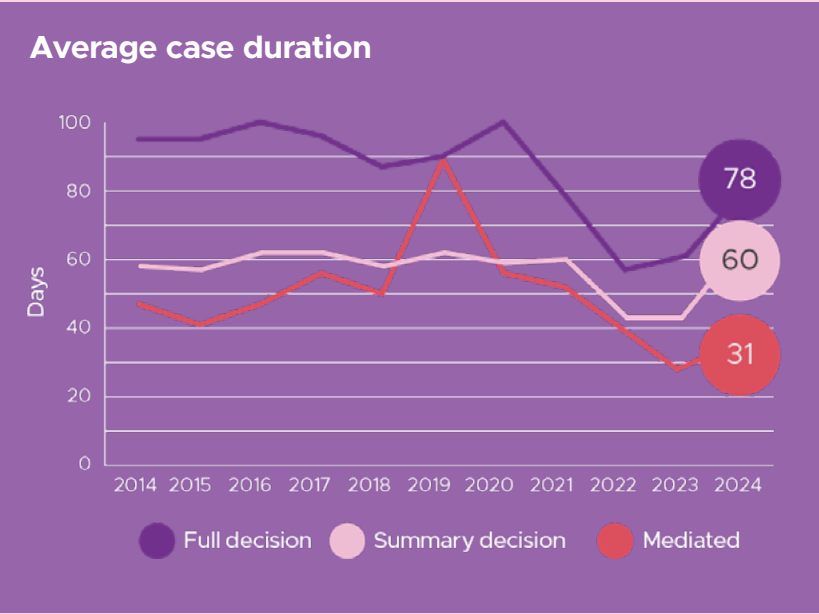
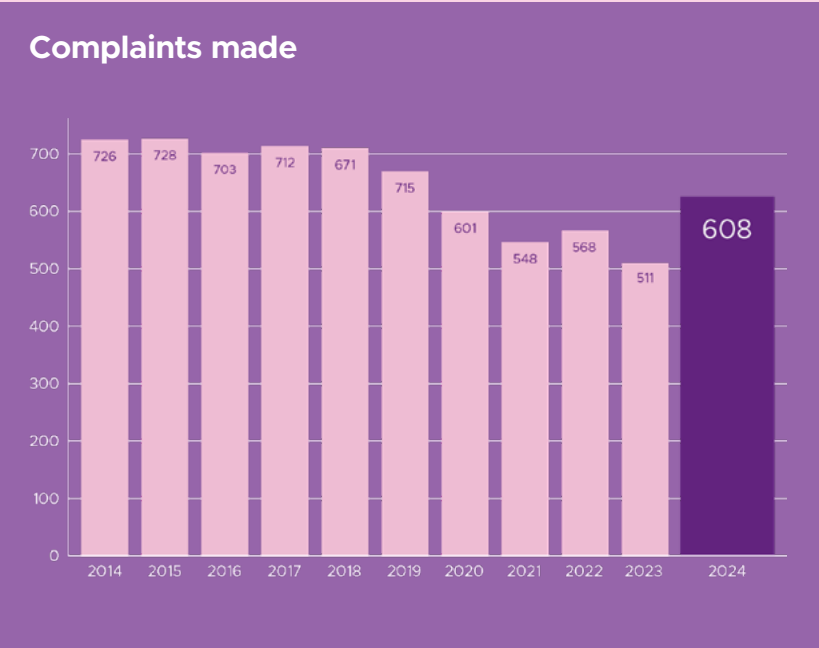
The Respondent said they registered the domain for a small estate agent, not believing they had done anything wrong as the domain was available and they weren't aware of any trademark issues. They believed that the Complainant was at fault for not registering the domain name.

However, the Expert noted that the Respondent likely knew about Rightmove and used the domain to confuse users and divert traffic. The Expert ruled it was an abusive registration and ordered the domain to be transferred to Rightmove.

bgc.uk

Bournemouth Glass Company Ltd (BGC) claimed rights to the domain name arguing it was registered by the Respondent for resale at a profit and never actively used. BGC provided evidence such as a brochure and invoice, but the Respondent disputed their authenticity, suggesting the documents were recently created to support its case. The Expert found BGC's evidence insufficient to prove enforceable rights in "bgc" and noted their lack of online presence.

The Respondent argued they were unaware of BGC when registering the domain. The Expert concluded that the Complainant had not proven their rights in the term "bgc" and that the domain name registration was not abusive. Additionally, the Expert found that the Complainant had used the Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) in bad faith, constituting Reverse Domain Name Hijacking, and therefore, no action should be taken regarding the domain name.





DOMAIN DEFENDERS:

How our experts protect businesses from imitation

*We sat down with **Nick Gardner, the Chair of our independent panel of Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) experts**, on the current trends and methods of domain name monetisation and navigating conflicts between domain name traders and brand owners.*

“It can be very cheap and easy to register a domain name – anybody can do it. And the world is full of people with mischief on their mind,” starts Nick Gardner, retelling his experience from the days when the internet started to be commercialised.

“In the very early days it was a gold rush and everybody was registering domain names. If I had been smart when I first became involved in this area in the 1990s, I would have gone and bought domain names corresponding to every single common dictionary word - most of which were still available for a trivial price. I’d be a trillionaire by now – but I completely failed to spot that possibility. That’s why I’m a lawyer and not an entrepreneur!”

“In the very early days it was a gold rush, and everybody was registering domain names...I don’t think we really anticipated people monetising [them] in the way that they do now.”

“The nature of the domain name business has changed enormously since then. I don’t think we really anticipated people monetising domain names in the way that professional domainers now do, trading in vast portfolios,” continues Gardner. “You couldn’t have predicted how a website could generate revenue just from click-through links. It’s rare to come across a domain name that’s just out and out piracy anymore – by stealing someone else’s name or

trying to point it to a competing website. It’s more common to find more subtle tactics where someone takes a domain name that is similar to someone else’s trademark and uses it for a website with revenue generating purposes – making money from those who get there by mistake.”

Since the early days of the internet, there has been a tension between people that want to trade in domain names, and brand owners. And with thousands of domain names registered each week, it’s inevitable that some might cause disagreements. This is why we provide an award-winning DRS – a fast, efficient way to resolve .UK domain name disputes.

Within the trademark system, you’ve got different classes. You can take any word and have multiple trademarks. Take “polo” for example: you have the mints, cars, the equine sport and the brand – Polo Ralph Lauren. They can all happily coexist in the physical world, but there is only one polo.co.uk domain name. “There is competition for generic names that have multiple applications. Registration of domain names is a ‘first come, first served’ system and generally the first person to register a domain name will be entitled to keep it, providing their registration is done for legitimate purposes. This is fine unless you cross the line of a legitimate business operation and wilfully try to take advantage of somebody else’s brand and reputation.

“Back in the early days, I worked on a case where the British Airports Authority wanted to make a claim against the owner of baa.com. But the respondent claimed he had a legitimate interest in sheep and had linked the name to a website devoted to sheep, which had what was quite a sophisticated landing page in those days. It changed daily and featured what was described as the “woolly jumper” of the day, and it was always accompanied by a photo of a sheep jumping over a hedge or gate.

“

If you didn’t have this system, a lot more cases would go to the courts... Through this service, we can avoid that from happening and Nominet has gone out of its way to make the system accessible to people without hiring a lawyer.

”

That type of content requires some quite difficult analysis and shows that the context of each dispute is incredibly important.”

“Most DRS cases are straightforward. But inevitably there are a minority of cases where the issues are finely balanced. I’d like to think we have succeeded in providing a system to address the issues that’s fair, and that even those who lose can understand why,” adds Gardner.

“If you didn’t have this system, a lot more cases would go to the courts. The DRS leaves the courts free to deal with more important and difficult cases. But there is also a huge benefit to the user. We often get cases where the complainant is a big corporate – and they can afford to litigate if they want to. But there are also many cases where the complainant is a small business and would find the cost of litigation prohibitive.”

Many respondents would be unable to afford the costs of defending a claim made against them through the courts. And litigation is usually time consuming and often unpredictable. “There is a general interest in providing an alternative to litigation that avoids these problems. Through the DRS, we have provided a real alternative that is fast and economical and where Nominet has gone out of its way to make the system accessible to people without the need to hire a lawyer.”

“While domain names remain the primary way to create a web presence, there is an ongoing need for the DRS, Gardner believes. The DRS process does evolve to tackle particular issues or trends, however.”

“We do fine tune the process. For instance, we’ve updated the system for cases where the respondent hasn’t replied, and that’s quite straightforward. But the rise of different technologies impacting domain trends is an interesting topic,” he remarks.

For example, the growth of artificial intelligence systems in recent years, has led to a huge increase in applications for domain names with relevance to that area of technology. The same is the case in relation to cryptocurrencies. Gardner noted a recent case concerning uniswap.co.uk, which had been registered many years previously for use in a project to develop a university focused marketplace website. Then, many years, later an enormously successful cryptocurrency business trading as “uniswap” attempted (unsuccessfully) to use the DRS to obtain the domain name.

Gardner urges businesses that might want to use the DRS to check the Nominet website. “We have put a lot of guidance on the website that will help to ensure that a case follows the correct procedure. Although you can do it without hiring a lawyer, there are some basic rules about what needs to

be contained in a complaint and some detailed rules about the maximum number of words your complaint can contain, for instance. All this is explained in the guidance on the website.

“Unfortunately we see cases where the guidance has not been followed and a complainant has submitted poor or irrelevant information which has led them to lose the case as a result. It’s important to follow the guidance and keep a complaint relevant and to the point. The same is true of a response.”

And to avoid needing to use the DRS, he advises businesses to register as many domain names as you can to protect your brand. Registering multiple domains ensures that visitors can find your website, even if they mistype your URL or the ccTLD. Consider what common typos visitors might make in searching for your website and try to register these too.

Unfortunately, Gardner considers there are still many people with “mischief on their mind” looking to seek to exploit or imitate successful websites for financial gain – thankfully the DRS is here to enable an independent expert decision that can stop that kind of activity quickly and economically and hence avoid costly and protracted litigation.

ENABLE

We work hard to help everyone make the most of the digital world, building their abilities and supporting them to seize new opportunities.



Bringing computational skills to every primary school

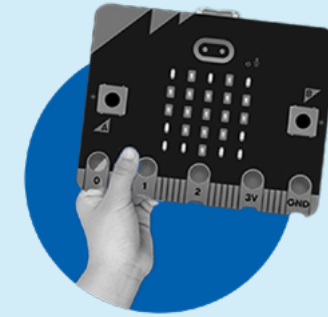
Upskilling military veterans for digital careers

Changing the course of the UK's digital skills shortage

Our membership gives back

MICRO:BIT MARVELS:

How one school is sparking computational creativity



We spoke with **Daryn Maginnis, Vice Principal of Downpatrick Primary School, Northern Ireland** about how they are using micro:bits in the classroom, and the growing need for digital skills in today's world.

Daryn, please tell us all about yourself and your school.

Hi there! I'm an ICT leader and the Vice Principal of Downpatrick Primary School in Northern Ireland. We're a medium-sized primary school with around 210 pupils, including a Learning Support Centre for children with moderate learning difficulties. We're big on ICT, and take a thematic, cross-curricular approach to integrating the subject, rather than treating it as standalone.

I'm also the principal moderator for ICT in Northern Ireland, responsible for leading a team of moderators to assess children's ICT skills.

Let us know how you're teaching children with the micro:bits at your school?

We start with block-based coding in the micro:bit's code editor, which has made coding much more accessible for both students and teachers. And through this, we integrate the micro:bits into themed projects for the children across plenty of subject areas like science, geography, history, and personal development.

Why is it important that computational skills are taught at an early age?

It's vital that our children are taught from the very beginning to think logically and analytically. Learning to code helps with these skills, breaks down complex problems, and gets kids coming up with solutions. We've also found that using technologies like the micro:bit boosts student confidence, particularly among girls, in coding and technology.

How have you noticed the need for digital skills changing over the years?

Many of the jobs that today's primary school students will have in the future may not even exist yet! Giving them a strong foundation in computational thinking and digital literacy will help prepare them for an increasingly technology-driven future.

More schools should realise that computational skills can be woven into various subject areas beyond just computer science. This is because digital skills aren't just there to help children use technology when they're older, but because these skills are needed in all parts of life nowadays.



Source: Ivy Chimneys Primary School

“

Many of the jobs that today's primary school students will have in the future likely don't even exist yet! Giving them a strong foundation in computational thinking and digital literacy will help prepare them for an increasingly technology-driven future.

”

What is a micro:bit?

The BBC micro:bit is a pocket-sized computer that introduces you to how software and hardware work together. It has an LED light display, buttons, sensors and many input/output features that you can program and physically interact with. The latest micro:bit adds sound sensing and playback capabilities.

The device is used by millions of young people worldwide to get hands-on with computer science and technology.

[Find out more here.](#)

Who are the Micro:bit Educational Foundation?



The Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to inspire every child to create their best digital future.

They are the brains behind developing the hardware and software for the devices, which inspires young people to get excited about technology and the opportunities it presents for them. The team also creates free, user-friendly educational resources to support teachers in delivering engaging and creative lessons.

And it works with like-minded partners to deliver high-impact educational programmes across the globe.

[You can read all about their amazing work here.](#)

MICRO:BIT MARVELS:

How one school is sparking computational creativity



Daryn Maginnis
Vice Principal of
Downpatrick Primary School



Source: Ivy Chimneys Primary School

Rock, paper, scissors!

Children can play this classic game with two micro:bits and learn about selection, variables and random numbers at the same time.

When the micro:bit accelerometer detects a shake movement, it sets the variable tool to a random number: 0, 1 or 2. The program uses selection to decide what image to show on the LED display. If the random number was 0, it shows a rock icon, if it was 1 it shows the icon representing paper. If it wasn't 0 or 1, it must be 2 because the micro:bit is instructed to only pick random numbers between 0 and 2, so in that case it shows scissors.

Find out more about how this is coded.

We're award winners!

Alongside BBC Teach and The Micro:bit Educational Foundation, we won the Not-For-Profit Digital Project of the Year at the 2025 Digital Revolution Awards for the micro:bit - the next gen project.



What are the most amazing things your pupils have designed with the micro:bits?

The children very quickly discovered they could make music with the micro:bit! By Christmas, they had created whole digital jukeboxes that could play Christmas carols on demand. It was maddening and amazing in equal measure.

They love using the micro:bit's Bluetooth radio receivers to create interactive games like Rock Paper Scissors. And one of my favourites has been seeing them make little art animations using just the 25 LED lights on the micro:bit. The device allows them to be very creative and innovative in the projects they design, going beyond just simple coding exercises.

Have you got experience using micro:bit with pupils who have accessibility requirements? Did you make any adaptations?

The micro:bit itself lends well to an accessible, structured learning approach, without requiring major changes or adaptations. Our focus has been to use the right software tools and breaking down the activities to meet the students' needs. We've used the translated blocks in the micro:bit editor to make the coding more accessible for students with learning difficulties and integrated the micro:bit with Scratch, which has plugins that further enhance accessibility

“We can make sure that, with the donation of micro:bits, all children have equitable access to these important computational skills.”

Source:
Ivy Chimneys Primary School



What has it enabled in your classroom that wouldn't otherwise be possible?

There's been no cost to us, which has been fantastic. We're in a climate where there just isn't as much money for schools and we're having to cut costs. Then, to have the access to not just the micro:bit, but access to the editor and all the online resources for free is wonderful. For that alone, we're incredibly grateful.

I think the donation of the micro:bits has also really helped with a huge issue in schools – the digital divide. Access to certain technologies and digital learning opportunities can be tied to a student's socioeconomic background and it's up to school to be cognizant of it and to actively address it. We can make sure that, with the donation of micro:bits, all children have equal access to these important computational skills.

How have the resources from BBC micro:bit been useful for you?

I'm somebody who considers themselves to be pretty ICT literate. And even I thought it was hard to get code on the micro:bit to begin with! I was contacted by Nominet to ask whether I wanted to try one of the online learning courses for the programme, and it was transformational. It's so simple – I don't know why I ever felt it was difficult myself.

Overall, the micro:bit has helped our teachers gain a lot more competence in teaching computational thinking and developing those skills. The training has been fantastic and very helpful in supporting teachers to get hands-on experience and learn simple projects first. There's a much more positive attitude towards technology compared to before.

What have been the lasting changes from the micro:bit – the next gen programme?

Micro:bit has kicked the doors down in terms of making coding and computational learning more accessible and engaging for both students and teachers. Our pupils are developing a better understanding of how technology and devices work – not just how to use them. They're more confident, creative, and working better as a team. Our teachers have really benefitted from the free resources and training. And there is so much potential for greater innovation and cross-curricular integration of the micro:bit going forward.

THE MICRO:BIT MAP OF THE UK

How many schools
have their micro:bits?

over
600,000

micro:bits have been delivered
to UK primary schools



Halfmerke Primary School

"By using the micro:bits it provided our children with practical learning experiences whilst enhancing their skills and knowledge in all STEM subjects. They displayed enthusiasm and excitement during each lesson and often asked to use them to code during their Recognition Time. It provided them with an insight into how digital technology works and through discussion with the children, it is clear that it has increased their interest of developing these skills further as they go into high school."

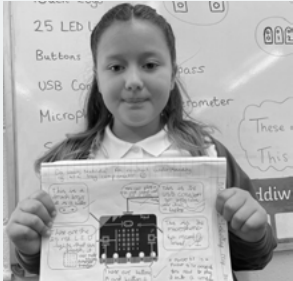
Karen McBrearty,
Halfmerke Primary School



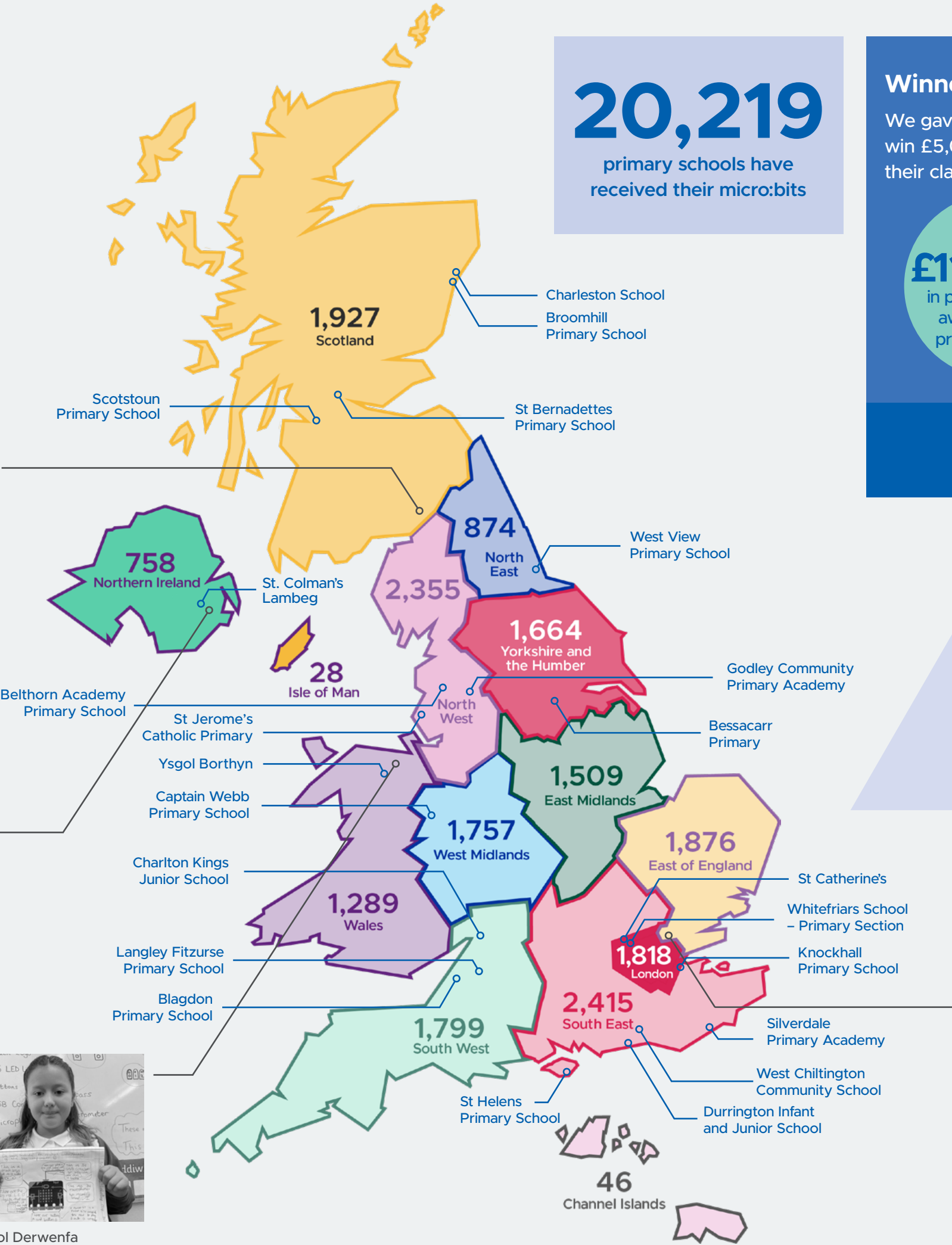
Downpatrick Primary School

"We have used the micro:bits kits to develop two of our school development priorities for this academic year which is the development of Digital and Numeracy skills across the curriculum. After introducing the children to the key component of the micro:bits, we then moved on to developing bilingual name tags, temperature gauges and elephant trackers. The micro:bits really helped to bring our three key topics to life: Japan, Living Things and Incredible Inventions, and gave the children an authentic purpose to apply their skills across the curriculum"

John Andrew Jones, Deputy Headteacher, Ysgol Derwenfa



Ysgol Derwenfa



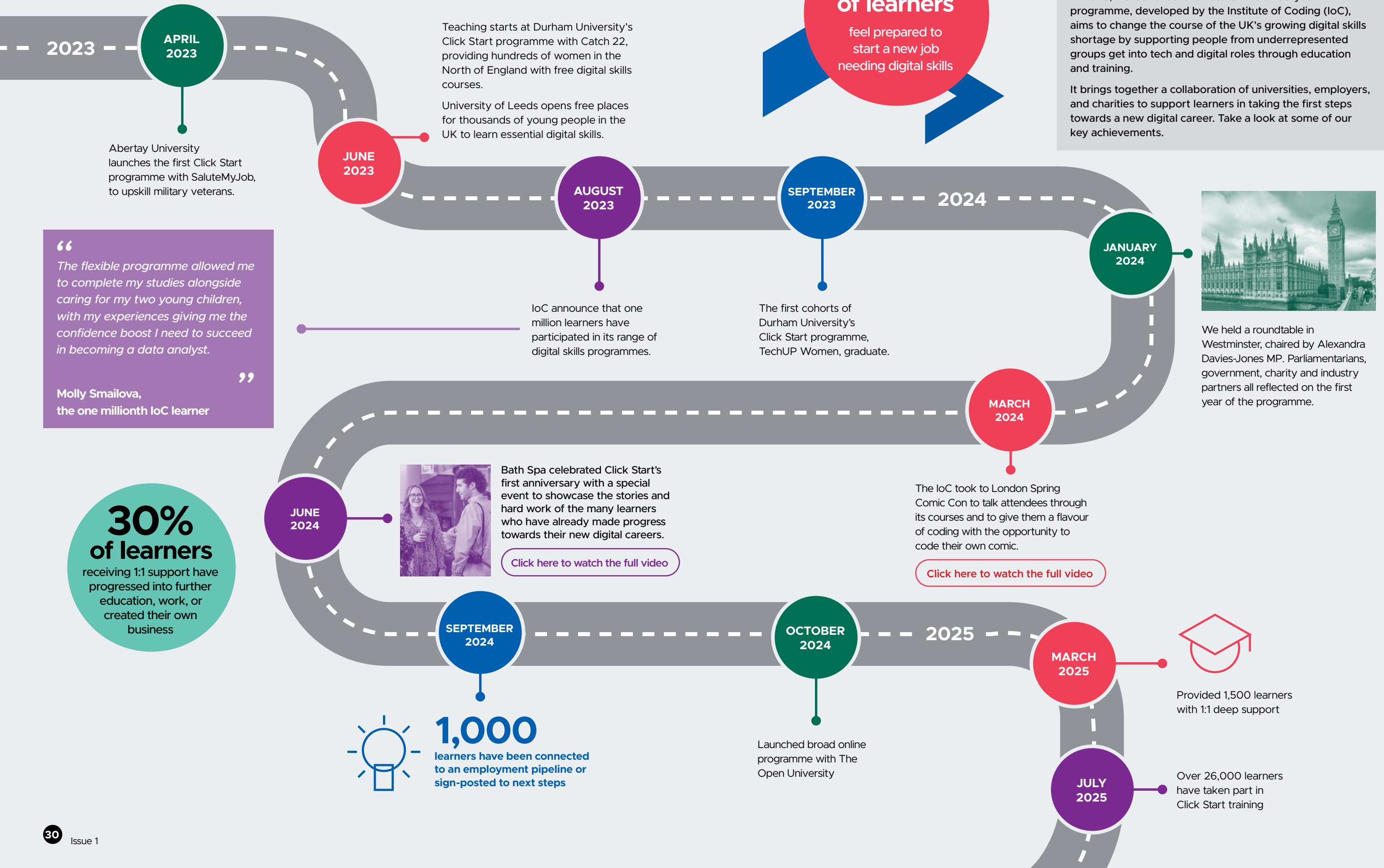
Ivy Chimneys Primary School



"The donation of micro:bits is really essential to our school curriculum because we couldn't afford to buy enough physical computing equipment. I think it's so important that computational skills are taught at an early age. They're excited to learn, and it's a great motivator for them to pick up code."

Julie Kaleel, Teacher at Ivy Chimneys Primary School

ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET... CLICK START!





FROM SUBMARINE NAVIGATOR TO DIGITAL ENTREPRENEUR

Sam's Click Start story

Sam Jeffs, Click Start graduate and small business owner, tells us his inspiring story of retraining in cyber security after the military, and how his training may lead to more veterans like him having career opportunities.

"I feel like I've lived a million lives," says Sam Jeffs – and he's not wrong! Joining the Navy at 18, Jeffs trained as a submarine navigator, serving for ten years. He then worked as a Deputy Special Operations Officer, planning submarine missions and working with various agencies.

After leaving the military, he became a super yacht captain, working on large yachts for six years. Now, he's the proud owner of a successful delivery business and is helping his family redevelop their holiday park in Wales.

Though his varied career, one thing has remained the same. He has maintained a strong connection to the military community and continues to look for ways to support and employ other veterans and ex-forces personnel.

"It was very difficult for me when leaving the military," says Jeffs. "It's a big transition going from a group of people with a common background to feeling totally alien in the civilian world."

"It's also a chicken and egg scenario, where employers want candidates with both qualifications and experience, but it's hard to get that initial experience without the qualifications," continues Jeffs. "As a veteran, you're searching for someone to give you a chance as that first foot in the door can open up other opportunities."

Jeffs' big break came when he got his first job on a yacht, where the captain was ex-Polish military. This gave him the initial experience he needed to leverage his military background with other employers. And he wants to do the same for other veterans.

From theory to practice

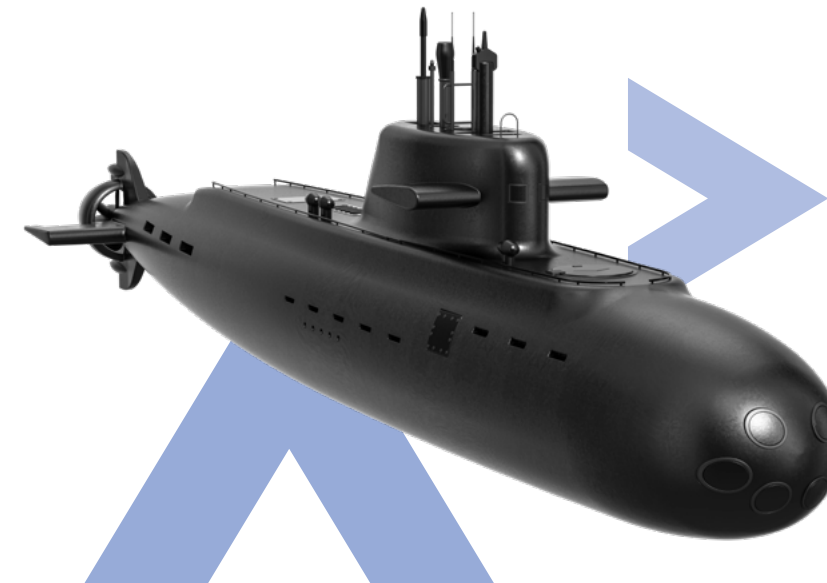
It all started with a social media post. "I saw an advert for the SaluteMyJob Pathways Programme, as part of the Click Start programme, and I thought – why not? Cyber security is an area I had a real interest in, I enjoy constantly learning new skills... and it was free!" remarks Jeffs.

He joined the ethical hacking course at Abertay University, in collaboration with SaluteMyJob, and found it fascinating. He was particularly proud to successfully complete the coursework, which involved hacking a machine and obtaining admin-level access. "It really opened my eyes to the importance of cybersecurity, especially for smaller businesses that may not think they are at risk," adds Jeffs.

He is now gearing up to complete the PenTest+ certification through Abertay University and SaluteMyJob, building on his ethical hacking skills. Next up, he plans to tackle the Cyber Governance and Policy Course available.

Jeffs is also eyeing other certifications, like CompTIA, to further boost his credentials. His ultimate goal? To start a successful cybersecurity business focused on helping smaller organisations that may otherwise be neglected or unable to afford comprehensive protection – especially by employing and supporting fellow veterans.

SaluteMyJob is dedicated to fostering stronger connections between ex-military individuals and supportive employers. In collaboration with Abertay University, it empowers veterans to develop specialised skills, attain valuable qualifications and explore exclusive employment pathways tailored specifically for the Armed Forces community.



"Veterans have a unique skillset and experience that can be highly valuable in the cyber security field, even if it doesn't directly translate," says Jeffs. "I want to help them interpret their military skills and expertise into successful civilian careers."

Jeffs is also driven by a desire to "rebuild the communities and support networks that people miss" when leaving the military. "By employing veterans, I can create an ecosystem that supports and empowers this community as they transition to civilian life."

At the end of our conversation, he leaves us with these parting thanks:

"I want to say thank you for Nominet's funding. Because you're giving people a chance to open new doors – who knows where they'll lead?"

Jeffs' advice to those getting started in cyber security:

- Just say yes and do it: Embrace every learning opportunity - what have you got to lose? Try new things, as you might find your perfect fit.
- Take the first step: Even if you're not sure about a particular course or programme, you should still give it a try. The knowledge and skills gained are always valuable.
- Focus on continuous learning: Constantly expand your knowledge and skills, even outside your comfort zone. This is key to growth.
- Use free or affordable educational opportunities: I was first drawn to the Click Start programme because it was a free way for me to explore cybersecurity. Seek out similar cost-effective learning options.

And to businesses:

- Be willing to take a chance on veterans! It's so important for us to find employers and mentors who recognise the value that veterans can bring, even if our background doesn't perfectly match the job requirements. We're counting on you.

HOW OUR MEMBERS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

...And how you can too!



Katherine Lowe Settlement



Caius House

Every month, our Members’ GiveHub offers a fantastic opportunity for our members. They can apply for a grant on behalf of an eligible organisation they care about. Members can apply for funding up to £10,000 per financial year - imagine the impact they can make.

“GiveHub is an amazing public benefit offering from Nominet,” comments Joseph Telford, member of the GiveHub panel and Technical Director of AES Digital Solutions. “It’s very important in today’s world that we encourage charitable use, and education, of technology to give people greater opportunities and to improve the life chances of all.”

The application window runs from the 1st to 31st of each month. A panel of volunteers drawn from the Nominet membership will then assess each application and make a decision on whether to award a grant.

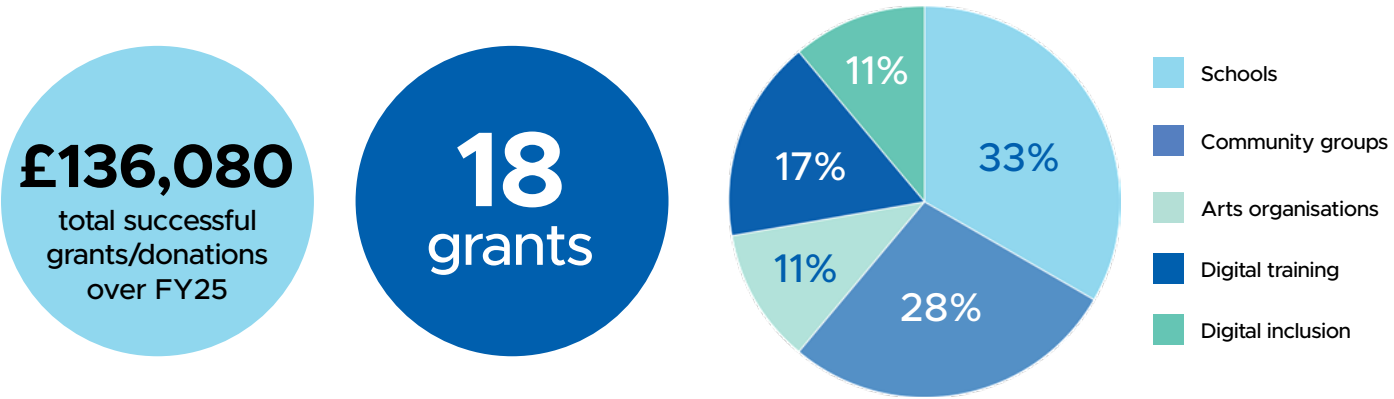
“On the GiveHub panel, I see members robustly discussing potential bids and aiming to support all viable bids,” continues Telford. “The panel looks at every bid in an unbiased way, and welcomes bids from all Nominet members. Many bids are approved in the same month that they are submitted, and currently there is a high proportion of successful bids supporting charitable activities.

Why not contact Nominet to find out – putting in a bid is easy!”

Thank you to our current GiveHub panel...

Name	Company
Leslie Bunder	DreamHost
Chris Hemmings	Penguin Internet Ltd
Richard Hillsdon	EuroSolve Ltd
Marek Isalski	Faelix Limited
Q Misell	AS207960 Cyfyngedig
Tim Prater	Prater Raines Ltd
Joseph Telford	AES Digital Solutions Limited

In our last financial year, our members have been the driving force behind...



Abbeyfields First School

Lesley Moody OBE, Managing Director at AES Digital Solutions Ltd. in Stockton on Tees nominated Friends of Abbeyfields. As a result, Nominet awarded £9,950 in funding to help Abbeyfields First School enhance its computing lessons.

“The funding will enable us to work closely with two inspirational Computing Consultants with boundless enthusiasm and countless years of computing experience in education. The impact we want is to first and foremost educate the children in online safety in age-appropriate interactive lessons, but also to inspire the children to consider future career options in STEM and cyber security. Thanks to Nominet – this is becoming a reality!”

- **Abbeyfields First School**

Cloud Artisans, a digital engagement consultancy specialising in arts and culture, nominated Nottingham Playhouse for funding through the Nominet Members’ GiveHub.

Thanks to £5,000 in funding from the Nominet Members’ GiveHub, Nottingham Playhouse is now able to bring the stage to a more diverse audience. Funding has gone towards advanced technology for VR headsets – meaning that anyone who can’t physically attend a show can still immerse themselves in the theatre experience. It has also gone towards a new British Sign Language (BSL) brochure, and a portion will go towards fees for interpreters.

“We couldn’t recommend Nominet enough for the help and support you provide. You’re always available to answer any questions and are a lovely group of people to work with.”

- **Olivia Wyatt, Project Lead, Cloud Artisans**



Nottingham Playhouse



Digibus

Michael Findlay, IT Director at Hooble nominated DigiBus. The DigiBus project helps to ensure people of all ages feel empowered by technology, rather than intimidated by it. From online banking to digital health services, social media and everything in between – the digital world dominates in today’s society. Knowing how to navigate life online is crucial both practically and to ensure a sense of connection and belonging.

We awarded £10,000 in funding to help DigiBus continue its vital work, educating the community about how to make the most of life online.

“This will enable us to continue providing much needed one-to-one digital support for people of all ages in Gloucestershire. As a charity we rely on donations to continue our important work; helping to connect and improve life opportunities in the UK.”

- **Geoffrey Newsome, Chief Executive Officer, Digibus**

To find out how you can get involved with the Members’ GiveHub and start making a difference, contact membersgivehub@nominet.uk

