

.UK INTER-REGISTRAR TRANSFER POLICY

Policy effective from the 9th of February 2027

1. **Policy version 2026-03**
2. This document sets out the inter-Registrar transfer policy for the .UK top level domain.
3. It is a fundamental policy principle for the registry that Registrants may choose from a competitive Registrar market to register or maintain their domains and must be able to move between Registrars accordingly.
4. Registrant request transfer authorisation code from losing Registrar.
 - 4.1. To transfer a domain between Registrars, a Registrant must ask the losing Registrar to:
 - 4.1.1. Set and provide them with a Transfer Authorisation Code. Any request to set a new Transfer Authorisation Code will also be a request to expire any existing transfer authorisation codes.
 - 4.1.2. Remove any Registrar set transfer locks on their domain before requesting the gaining Registrar to transfer the domain.
5. Losing Registrars must when asked to transfer a domain:
 - 5.1. Ensure the request is authentic from their Registrant.
 - 5.2. Remove any transfer locks that the Registrar has set on the domain at no charge within 5-days when asked to do so by the Registrant – unless the Registrar can show the lock is in place to prevent a case where they reasonably believe domain name abuse is taking place and/or to adhere to other registry policies.
 - 5.2.1. For the avoidance of doubt, a Registrar imposing a transfer lock without consent of the Registrant after create, update or transfer in of a domain or its associated objects where there is no other evidence of domain name abuse or breach of policy is not allowed. Consent may be provided within a registrar's terms and conditions, but any terms may not restrict the registrants right to removal of the lock in accordance with registry policy.
 - 5.3. Set a Transfer Authorisation Code at the registry for the domain.
 - 5.4. Provide the Transfer Authorisation Code to the Registrant within 5-days at no charge.
 - 5.5. Retain records, which must be made available to Nominet's compliance team in a transfer dispute or audit of compliance, pertaining to the provision of the Transfer Authorisation Code for 15 months including:
 - 5.5.1. Timestamp of Transfer Authorisation Code being sent.
 - 5.5.2. Communication method of the Transfer Authorisation Code.
 - 5.5.3. Who the Transfer Authorisation Code was provided to.
6. The registry will set a Time To Live (TTL) on any Transfer Authorisation Code that is created. Only one Registrar set Transfer Authorisation Code may exist at a time on any one domain.
7. The Registrant:
 - 7.1. May request that the transfer is done:
 - 7.1.1. without renewal, provided the gaining registrar supports incoming

transfer without renewal, except if the domain is in the auto renew grace period; or
7.1.2. With renewal of a period of 1-10 years except where that would result in an expiry date of more than 10 years in the future.

7.2. Must:

7.2.1. agree to the gaining Registrars' terms and conditions of service including binding to current registry policies and Registrant Terms and Conditions.

7.2.2. request the transfer of the domain by providing a valid Transfer Authorisation Code to the gaining Registrar.

8. The gaining Registrar must:

8.1. bind the Registrant to their terms and conditions and the registry policies and Registrant Terms and Conditions and be able demonstrate this to Nominet's compliance team.

8.2. submit a transfer request to the registry:

8.2.1. including the Transfer Authorisation Code.

8.2.2. only request a renewal with transfer if the Registrant has requested the renewal period. For the avoidance of doubt registrars are free to charge for incoming transfers whether a renewal is requested or not.

8.2.3. If the domain is in the auto renew grace period, the registrar must request a minimum of one year renewal for the transfer to be accepted.

9. The Registry will immediately upon receipt of a transfer request:

9.1. Verify that:

9.1.1. no locks exist on the domain to prevent transfer;

9.1.2. the Transfer Authorisation Code for the domain is valid.

9.2. Provided the verification in preceding step is OK, move the domain immediately to the new Registrar:

9.2.1. If the Registrar did not request renewal, the domain will transfer with no charge from the Registry to the Registrar.

9.2.2. If the Registrar requested a renewal the appropriate renewal term will be processed as part of the transfer.

9.2.3. If the domain is in the auto renew grace period, the auto renewal will be cancelled resulting in only the renewal requested as part of the transfer request being charged.

9.2.4. Expire the Transfer Authorisation Code from the domain.

10. The registry will if it has not received a transfer request in 14-days from the time the Transfer Authorisation Code was set, expire the Transfer Authorisation Code.

11. Complaints regarding inter-Registrar transfers

11.1. A complaint may be made to Nominet by a Registrant against the losing Registrar if:

11.1.1. the losing Registrar fails to remove a transfer lock and/or provide a Transfer Authorisation Code to a Registrant in accordance with this policy.

11.1.2. The losing Registrar does not take reasonable steps to ensure the authenticity of a request to provide a Transfer Authorisation Code; and/or provides the Transfer Authorisation Code to an unauthorised third party.

11.2. A complaint may be made by the losing Registrar to Nominet as to the legitimacy of an inter-registrar transfer

11.2.1. The losing Registrar may dispute an inter-registrar transfer which has completed on behalf of, and with the consent of, the Registrant by raising a complaint with Nominet.

11.2.2. The outcome of any compliance investigation into any complaint under this policy may result in the Registry:

11.2.2.1. Upholding the status quo.

11.2.2.2. Putting a domain into the state the Registrant intended.

11.2.2.3. Suspending a Registrar's Accreditation for breach of policy.

11.2.2.4. Terminating a Registrar's Registry-Registrar Agreement for breach of policy.

Inter-Registrar Transfer Process - instant transfers.

