

.UK REGISTRATION POLICY

Policy effective from the 9th of February 2027

Policy Version: 2026-03

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This .UK Registration Policy (**Policy**) governs the registration of Domains in the .UK namespace with specific rules for those directly administered by Nominet.
- 1.2. The following terms used in this Policy have the meanings set out below:
- Third-Level Domain** A Domain registered under a Second-Level Domain listed in clause 1.4 (excluding .uk). For example, nominet.co.uk would be a Third-Level Domain, whilst co.uk would be the second-level domain it is registered within.
- Zone** A specific independently managed portion of the DNS hierarchical namespace.
- 1.3. Any capitalised terms used but not defined in this Policy have the meaning given to them in the Registry-Registrar Base Agreement or other document comprising the .UK RRA.
- 1.4. Nominet directly administers the .UK country-code Top-Level Domain (**ccTLD**) and the following Zones within the .UK ccTLD:

Zone	Intended use	Advisory or mandated usage policy?
.uk	For those who wish to be associated with the United Kingdom	Advisory
.co.uk	Commercial entities and purposes	Advisory
.org.uk	Not-for-profit entities	Advisory
.me.uk	Personal names	Mandated– Clause 6
.ltd.uk	Private limited companies	Mandated – Clause 7
.plc.uk	Public limited companies	Mandated – Clause 7
.net.uk	Internet service providers' infrastructure	Mandated – Clause 8
.sch.uk	Schools use only	Mandated – Clause 9
.nic.uk	Exclusively for Nominet's use as Registry operator	Mandated – Clause 10

- 1.5. The following Zones have been delegated to and are administered by other entities as trustees:

Zone	Intended use	Administered by
.ac.uk	Higher and further education and research institutions	Jisc Services Ltd
.gov.uk	National, regional and local government bodies and agencies	Government Digital Service, Department of Science, Innovation and Technology, HM Government.
.mod.uk	Military and related purposes	The Secretary of State for Defence, HM Government
.mil.uk	Military and related purposes	The Secretary of State for Defence, HM Government
.nhs.uk	National Health Service	NHS England
.parliament.uk	Parliament of the United Kingdom	Parliament of the United Kingdom

Trustees may operate the Zones directly or via a technical partner such as a registry services provider.

2. Nominet administered Zones

- 2.1. Nominet maintains a reserved Domains list which contains Domains that cannot be registered.
- 2.2. Nominet may check all Domains for compliance with this Policy either before or after a Domain is registered or renewed. If the Domain does not meet the requirements in this Policy, then Nominet may reject the application, registration or renewal of the Domain.

3. .uk

- 3.1. Domains registered in .UK are intended to be used for those who wish to be associated with the United Kingdom.
- 3.2. The sale of Third-Level Domain registrations to unrelated third parties is prohibited.

4. .co.uk

- 4.1. Domains registered in .co.uk are intended to be used for commercial purposes.

5. .org.uk

- 5.1. Domains registered in .org.uk are intended to be not-for-profit or public service enterprises. These may include, as non-exhaustive examples, charities, trades unions, political parties, community groups, educational councils and professional institutions.

6. .me.uk

- 6.1. The .me.uk Zone is intended to provide a personal namespace within the .UK ccTLD. Unless clause 6.3 applies, Registrants of .me.uk Domains must be, and remain at all times, a natural person (“**Qualifying Person**”), and shall not be recorded in the Registry as being the agent, trustee, proxy or representative for any person or entity (whether having an individual legal personality or not) that is not a Qualifying Person.

- 6.2. Unless clause 6.3 applies, no registration, transfer, renewal or change may be requested to a .me.uk Domain which would be in breach of clause 6.1, and Nominet may reject any such request. If any such action is requested and does occur, Nominet may reverse that action at any time in addition to any other rights Nominet may have within the .UK Registry-Registrar Agreement or otherwise.
- 6.3. Where, as a result of Nominet's .UK dispute resolution service or judicial proceedings (of relevant jurisdiction) a .me.uk Domain is to be transferred to a person who is not a Qualifying Person, Nominet shall permit the transfer to, and continued registration by, the transferee provided that no use is made of that .me.uk Domain for any purpose for as long as the transferee holds the Domain.
- 6.4. To prevent a breach of clause 6.1, Nominet may put the Domain into a Special Status e.g. by blocking the entry of any nameservers onto the record for that Domain.
- 6.5. The transferee under clause 6.3 will be able to transfer the Domain to a Qualifying Person, in which case the specific restrictions imposed under that clause will cease to apply.

7. Registered company domains .ltd.uk and .plc.uk

- 7.1. No Third-Level Domain shall be registered in either the .ltd.uk or .plc.uk Zone unless all the requirements of this section are met.
- 7.2. All Registrants wishing to register a Domain in the .ltd.uk or .plc.uk Zone must:
- 7.2.1. be incorporated companies (not partnerships of any type or unincorporated companies) listed on the Register of Companies (**Names Register**) at Companies House under the Companies Act 2006 as amended from time to time; and
 - 7.2.2. be entitled to use 'Limited', 'cyfyngedig', 'ltd.' or 'cyf' in their corporate name to register a Domain in the .ltd.uk Zone; or
 - 7.2.3. be entitled to use 'Public Limited Company', 'Cwmni cyfyngedig cyhoeddus', 'Plc.' or 'ccc'. in their corporate name to register a Domain in the .plc.uk Zone.
- 7.3. Applications for Domains in the .ltd.uk and .plc.uk Zones must state the full name of the company as registered and the company registration number. The applicant must be prepared to provide proof of the company's incorporation if requested by Nominet.
- 7.4. If Nominet becomes aware that the Registrant company has changed its name, been dissolved, or is otherwise removed from the list of active names on the Names Register, it may transfer, cancel, suspend or amend the Domain in accordance with the .UK Registrant Terms and Conditions. Nominet will send notice in accordance with the .UK Registrant Terms & Conditions unless the Registrant company has been removed from the list of active names on the Names Register, in which case Nominet shall have no obligation to send such notice.
- 7.5. No Domain shall be registered in either the .ltd.uk or .plc.uk Zone unless the Third-Level Domain can be derived from the official company name of the applicant using the algorithm in clause 7.7. If the algorithm does not generate a Domain permitted by this Policy, the application to register a Domain will be refused.
- 7.6. The algorithm set out in clause 7.7 is intended to assist in converting a company name to a Domain capable of registration within either the .ltd.uk or .plc.uk Zone. The algorithm is not guaranteed to generate a Domain capable of registration with Nominet and may only produce a Domain that is still in an inappropriate format or has already been registered. In these cases, Nominet will not register the Domain.
- 7.7. The following steps must all be carried out in the order below.

7.7.1. The following terms or abbreviations must be removed from the end of the company's name:

- limited
- public limited company
- cyfyngedig
- cwmni cyfyngedig cyhoeddus
- ltd
- plc
- ccc

7.7.2. Each occurrence of the characters "&" and "+" must be replaced by the word "and".

7.7.3. All punctuation marks and currency symbols must be removed.

7.7.4. Any marks on or around the letters must be removed, for example accents, leaving only the "base letter", i.e. the letter without any marks in or around the letter.

7.7.5. If the company name begins with the phrase 'the' it may be removed.

7.7.6. If the company name ends with any of the following words or phrases, they may be removed:

- company
- cwmni
- and company
- a'r cwmni

and any abbreviation of these (such as "co", "and co", or "cpy").

7.7.7. All remaining spaces must either be removed or changed to hyphens (one hyphen per continuous string of spaces).

8. .net.uk

8.1. No Third-Level Domain shall be registered or renewed in the .net.uk Zone unless all the requirements of this section are met.

8.2. The .net.uk Zone is reserved for the network information centre (NIC) and network operation centre (NOC) computers, administrative computers, and network node computers of network providers.

8.3. Registrants in the .net.uk Zone must be internet service providers (ISP). Notwithstanding the Registry Policies, no Domain shall be registered in the .net.uk Zone unless, in Nominet's reasonable opinion, the applicant is an ISP and the Domain registered is the same as or a similar variant of the applicant's name.

8.4. Without prejudice to any other test that Nominet may apply, the applicant shall only be deemed to be an ISP if the applicant is either;

- a company listed on the Register of Companies at Companies House under the Companies Act 2006 as amended from time to time;
- a partnership as defined by the Partnership Act 1890, Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2000 or a sole trader;

- a United Kingdom government department, local government body, or associated government funded organisation;
- a recognised academic institution geographically located in the United Kingdom; or
- a charity on the Register of Charities at the Charity Commission in the United Kingdom;

and the applicant:

- is listed as a local internet protocol (IP) address registry with a regional IP address registry; or
- has an autonomous system containing hosts in the United Kingdom that is listed with a regional IP address registry and that is continuously or at all reasonable times reachable from major internet exchange points.

8.5. Domains registered in the .net.uk Zone may only be used in the manner set out in this Policy. Nominet may transfer, cancel, suspend or amend a Domain if it believes it is not being used in accordance with this Policy.

8.6. The Domain must not be used in connection with any service provided by the Registrant on behalf of any other entity. For example, the Domain must not be used as part of another entity's email address or URL.

9. .sch.uk

9.1. The rules that apply to applications for Domains in the .sch.uk Zone are set out in the .UK Schools Domain Name Policy.

10. .nic.uk

10.1. The .nic.uk Zone is exclusively for the use of Nominet as the Registry operator.