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Response by Rennie Fritchie to Macdonald Report

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Lord Macdonald QC for his review of .uk registration policy.

Lord Macdonald's report reflects a thorough and considered review of the factors that influence registration policy, and includes a clear recommendation to restrict the use of a very small number of words which are exclusively referable to serious sexual offences. In keeping with our commitment to operating in the public interest, the Board has unanimously agreed to implement his recommendations.

We have been encouraged by Lord Macdonald's support for Nominet's current operational processes and systems for domain name registration, and his caution against the indiscriminate blocking of domains as being ineffective and counterproductive.

Nominet continues to believe that an open registration policy with minimal regulation is in the best interests of UK internet users, as it allows the fast, efficient and cost-effective registration of domain names in .uk.

We wholly agree with Lord Macdonald's advice against Nominet policing content of web sites or deciding on questions of good taste and decency.

That said, a safer and trusted internet benefits us all, and as a responsible business, we are committed to playing our part.

Nominet will amend its terms and conditions to make it clear that registration of a domain name that appears to encourage or promote a serious sexual offence will constitute a breach of our terms of business. This policy will be applied retrospectively, and those affected have been notified.

Taking into account Lord Macdonald's views on handling complaints regarding any domain names implicated in criminal use, we will also be updating our terms and condition to make it clear that use of a .uk domain name for criminal purposes is not permitted within the .uk namespace.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all participants in the Macdonald Review for their helpful contributions.

Rennie Fritchie
Chair, Nominet UK