



**NOMINET**

## **.UK Policy Stakeholder Committee Meeting**

30<sup>th</sup> September 2015

**Attendees:** David Abrahams; Tim Brown; Garreth Cameron; Richard Hyde; Carolyn Kimber (by phone); Pete McDougall; Vicki Nash

**Apologies:** Liz Coll; Gilad Rosner; Dave Thomas

**Secretariat:** Leanne Kenny; Richard Plater

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### **Welcome**

The Committee welcomed new members Richard Hyde from the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) and David Abrahams (Nominet).

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### **Nominet update**

Committee Members received an update from David Abrahams regarding a re-organisation of the Nominet Legal & Secretariat. As a result of the restructure the directorate level post has been removed and the three functions within the Secretariat, .UK Policy, International, and EU/UK Government Relations have been brought together under David as Head of Policy.

David confirmed Nominet's continued commitment to a professional multi-stakeholder approach to policy development. Members were invited to reflect on possible changes to its working procedures which may help the efficient working of the Committee. The continued existence of the Committee was thought to be very valuable and it was suggested that the Secretariat could look at ways of increasing transparency regarding the work of the Committee. Additional suggestions included a potential widening of the membership of the Committee, changes to the format and schedule of the monthly conference calls and whether an independent Chair should be appointed.

- Action: Committee members are invited to provide any further feedback on potential improvements to the operational processes to the Secretariat.
- Action: Committee members to provide any further suggestions for additional members.
- Action: Nominet to consider suggestions and make recommendations regarding the development of the Committee.

## **Global Privacy Enforcement Network, Children's Privacy 2015 – Presentation from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)**

The Committee received a presentation from Garreth Cameron on the ICO's recent participation in an international research project on privacy practices of apps and websites aimed at children (slides attached).

Members noted the lack of international consensus on what sort of privacy framework should be in place, the limits of UK agencies' enforcement powers in a global market, and the need to present privacy information and options to young service users in a more age appropriate fashion.

The discussion highlighted the potential lack of regulation and consumer understanding in relation to how companies generate targeted advertising online. It was highlighted that the Data Protection Act does not have a minimum age at which consent can be given, so each case has to be judged on its merits.

- Action: Secretariat to circulate the presentation slides to the Committee.
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## **Update on policy work programme**

The Secretariat updated the Committee on our intention to launch a review of the DRS policy and procedure in the next few months. (slides attached).

The Committee supported the concept of consolidating the current DRS Policy and Procedure into a single document noting the importance of clear guidance for parties. Some thoughts were offered for a more targeted approach to gathering feedback from interested constituents e.g. targeted meetings or using snap surveys on websites. In relation to vexatious complaints, it was noted that there is a process for dealing with vexatious Freedom of Information requests, which might provide some useful guiding principles for the DRS in relation to improving the quality of complaints.

- Action: Secretariat to circulate the presentation slides alongside meeting summary.
- Action: Secretariat to follow up with the ICO regarding vexatious complaints process.

The Secretariat confirmed that the Registrar Agreement (RA) changes "comment period" launched as planned. The Secretariat will be working with Nominet's Channel Team to coordinate communications to registrars.

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## **Horizon scanning and stakeholder engagement**

The Secretariat updated members on a variety of stakeholder outreach meetings undertaken over the summer months. Organisations included the Alliance for IP, BBC, Publishers Association, British Computer Society and Citizens Advice.

- Action: Committee members are invited to forward any suggestions of stakeholders that it would be useful for the Secretariat to reach out to.

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**AOB**

It was agreed that the schedule of meetings and conference calls for 2016 will be confirmed pending the review of the Committee's working practices.

The Secretariat requested Members to submit any expense claims as soon as possible.

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