

QUESTIONS asked to Nominet about the .uk proposal launched 1st July 2013

By Stephen Wilde up to 22 08 2013

The following is a list of emails to/from Nominet and blog questions posts made on the Nominet site, which may add to your understanding of the current Nominet .uk proposal and consultation process.

Any questions or comments, please contact me at Stephen@d42.co.uk

No. 1: Subject: Whois

CEO – 25-06-2013 (reminder sent 3 7 13)

Would Nominet please add the timestamp of hours and minutes of the registration date to the Whois lookup and/or DAT results, so when domains that were registered on the same day, it can be seen clearly which domain was registered first.

Rgds
Stephen

No. 2: Subject: .uk consultation

policy@nominet.org.uk – 02-07-2013

Further to your details of .uk being published yesterday, I have some initial questions, that I would be grateful if you would provide answers to:

1. what are the benefits of .uk?
2. why not use alternative solutions such as opening up .net.uk to increase availability of new UK domains?
3. will there be a cut-off date as there was in Version 1? (I hope not as that is possibly the strongest awareness campaign that .uk will have available to it, if it goes ahead)
4. what about the artificial earlier registration of .me.uk at the recent 2 letter Nominet auctions?
5. what will be done about confusion between .uk and .co.uk being potentially different owners?
6. what will be done about security issues that arise between .uk and .co.uk being different owners?
7. what will the new advert for "a great place to be" look like showing .uk as a choice?
8. why not email all registrants about the consultation advising them of how their domain currently stands as to whether they would obtain the equivalent .uk? (this would act as a good try run and .uk is important!)
9. why not operate an opt out of your rights to the .uk rather than an opt in?

- 10.why did Nominet not start a proper debate on the future of the UK namespace, rather than use a limited viewpoint for .uk consultation as the basis for moving forward?
- 11.why 6 months and not a year as a grace period?
- 12.will compensation be paid to those domain holders that will not get the .uk equivalent due to government bodies been given them?
- 13.how many emails do Nominet intend to send to each registrant?
- 14.will emails be sent to each registrant with a list of their domain or a separate email for each domain owned?
- 15.which email address held will be used?
- 16.will any domains apart from .com.uk be held back for potential use of a new 3rd level UK domain by Nominet in the future?
- 17.the new charge for .uk is stated as covering costs, can Nominet provide the figures to support this?
- 18.if the email bounces will Nominet write to the domain owner or call them on the phone?
- 19.what is the budget for the .uk awareness campaign?
- 20.Will address verification requirement be capped per unique legal entity?
In other words, if 10,000 domains are owned by the same entity, is verification process required 1x or 10,000x?

Thank you in anticipation, if you require any clarification on any question, please email me.

Rgds
Stephen
Really Useful Domains Ltd (TAG – WILDE)
Acorn Domains user name – Stephen

No. 3: Subject: foodstandardsagency.org.uk
policy@nominet.org.uk – 02-07-2013

During discussions on Acorn form it has been raised about government agencies taking the .uk.

I would suggest Nominet register all FTR (free to register) .co.uk and .org.uk of required strings. E.g. foodstandardsagency.org.uk is FTR

This would act as a “plan B” if there was a change due to consultation feedback.

Rgds
Stephen
ReallyUsefulDomains.co.uk

No. 4: Subject: Stats on 1st in queue

policy@nominet.org.uk – 02-07-2013

Regarding the new proposal for .uk, with the .uk going to the oldest registered UK domain (of selected 3rd level tld's)

Can you please provide the statistics on how many .tld extensions are currently (or recently when you ran the numbers)

At the front of the queue for the equivalent .uk domain

e.g. 10,000,000 total uk domains

1st in queue

940,000 .co.uk

40,000 .org.uk

10,000 .me.uk

5,000 .sch.uk

Thanks in anticipation of a full reply.

Rgds

Stephen

No. 5: Subject: dogtrainingcourses.org.uk

policy@nominet.org.uk – 02-07-2013

I have dogtrainingcourses.org.uk and it was registered 20th August 2010, the same day as the equivalent .co.uk.

As the Nominet Whois doesn't show the time the domain was registered could you please clarify, which is the oldest and so entitled to first refusal on the .uk under your current proposals?

Also if I come across anymore same day registrations is there a way to check online, rather than sending an email?

Rgds

Stephen

Response No.1 : Consultation on second level domain registration

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 03-07-2013

Dear Stephen

Thank you for your interest in the consultation on second level domain registration. This email responds collectively to your emails of:

Tuesday 2 July, 08.37

Tuesday 2 July, 10.45

Tuesday 2 July, 11.28

Tuesday 2 July, 18.51

Based on our experience in managing the first consultation, we are reluctant to get into highly detailed correspondence with individual stakeholders on a one to one basis. We believe it is fairer to all stakeholders if we collate queries and update the Q&A material on the website periodically so as to address issues of general interest to our stakeholders. We are reviewing your emails, in particular the long list of questions you sent through yesterday, along with other early feedback and questions we have received, and will consider whether these require that we publish further Q&As.

You have raised a number of questions some of which relate specifically to how certain procedures would work if the proposals go ahead as set out in the consultation. We believe that a number of your questions are addressed in the consultation documents, therefore I would recommend that you read the consultation document, background and further information, and the Q&A. In some cases your questions relate to issues on which we are specifically seeking input in the consultation so I would also encourage you to provide your views in your response to the consultation.

Kind regards

No. 6: Subject: Consultation on second level domain registration - reply

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 03-07-2013

As I'm doing this for the good of the UK namespace as an unpaid service to the wider community and you are getting paid to spend the time on dealing with stakeholders.

The information I seek is not just for my consumption, it is meant to help people see the benefits and drawbacks of the V2.0 .uk proposal.

I would be grateful if you would address each question in turn and point me to the relevant section you refer to in your various documents and press releases, to ensure there is no misunderstanding which you feel you have 100% dealt with in your proposal.

I hope that you will publish some of the questions as frequently asked questions but if you prefer I can spend some time trying to get more people to submit the same questions, if that would help you.

Rgds
Stephen

No. 7: Subject: Version 2.0 .uk proposal

CEO – 03-07-2013

With the Nominet version 1 .uk proposal, I sent to you a document that highlighted many issues with your proposal.

In fact there were no material arguments in the consultation report by anybody else that were not covered in my document.

At the time you reported back to the authority that is ultimately responsible for Nominet:

“support from the proposals from some businesses and civil society sectors. However, existing owners of .co.uk domains, and in particular firms which speculatively acquire large portfolios of such domains (“domainers”) are much less happy with the proposal at this stage.”

History has shown that your assessment was wrong and that when you study the document I sent and Edwin’s they were not taking the view of a domainer but the wider UK stakeholder community.

I have tried in the period between the climb down on your original .uk proposal and rebuilding a way forward an independent perspective, which you rejected.

Although Acorn domains is quiet on the subject of your V2.0 .uk proposal, there are some serious (and not so serious) people, how want to stop .uk.

For my part I want to see .uk go ahead, although not in its current form.

I would implore you this last time to provide me with the information I request from Nominet, as I can start to see that although I’m building a full picture of the .uk namespace, the gaps filled without Nominet’s view is more damaging to the .uk introduction, especially when weaved in with the mistakes of your previous proposal.

The document produced will be “the report” that is eventually provided to all the media, business groups for distribution, charities and MP’s so they can understand as a lay person all the implications, problems and benefits of .uk.

I hope to see you on Wednesday.

The majority of main points will not be raised at the next meeting as those with various information want to raise it at the AGM.

As always, I remain committed to improve the UK namespace for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Rgds
Stephen

Response No.2 : Consultation on second level domain registration

CEO – 08-07-2013

Dear Stephen

Thank you for your continued interest in the direct.uk proposal. We are reviewing the questions that you and some others have already submitted and will address these in additional published Q&A where appropriate. The team will of course also be happy to speak with you about your specific concerns at the stakeholder event on Wednesday. We also look forward to your written response to the consultation.

No. 8: Subject: Version 2.0 .uk proposal Q & A

CEO – 08-07-2013

The written response I will produce can only be provided once you have supplied data.

I would be grateful if you would direct your staff to deal with each question individually rather than lump them together with a bland response for me to read the proposal.

I hope you and some other Directors find the time to attend the round table in London on Wednesday.

No. 9: Subject: Version 2.0 .uk proposal Q & A

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 08-07-2013

Your Question & Answer page <http://www.nominet.org.uk/how-participate/policy-development/current-policy-discussions-and-consultations/SLDR-qanda> does not have the date created or show if answers or questions have been changed, so please add this information and have a facility so people interested can be updated rather than just keep checking the page and reading through looking for changes.

For your questions “I am interested in a .co.uk domain name for my business. Should I wait?” and “How do I know if I have a right of first refusal?” to help interesting parties you could consider adding a reference to the service at <http://www.dotukwinner.org.uk/> as Nominet have not seen fit to supply such a service. Nominet need to start thinking of stakeholders more.

Although the service does not check for pre nom (as Nominet Whois still doesn't show date) and it doesn't deal with same date registration by providing the exact time it was registered, to determine which is the oldest registration as Nominet does not supply this information. Plus nobody can check .sch.uk at 3rd level as Whois states not allowed at this level, so there would be no point adding them to the eligible list of tld's.

I hope that you find the above useful and act on it.

Rgds
Stephen

No. 10: Subject: Consultation on second level domain registration

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 24-07-2013

I have been away for the last 2 weeks and cannot find another email from Nominet about .uk about my many questions that I have asked.

I was at the London roundtable meeting 2 weeks ago when I was advised Nominet would be more transparent has any progress been made or do you require clarification on any area/question?

Rgds
Stephen

Response No.3 : Consultation on second level domain registration

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 03-07-2013

Dear Stephen,

Thank you for your email.

On the Nominet website the Q & A section for the second level domain registration consultation has recently been updated. For further details please visit <http://www.nominet.org.uk/how-participate/policy-development/current-policy-discussions-and-consultations/SLDR-qanda>

No. 11: Subject: Consultation on second level domain registration

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 25-07-2013

Thank you for getting back to me.

If this is your final answer to all my questions raised to date, I'm disappointed and I do not believe you are engaging in a transparent process.

Please confirm whether you will be dealing with each question or simply directing me to Q & A?

Response No.4 : Consultation on second level domain registration

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 26-07-2013

Dear Stephen,

Thank you for your email.

Most of the questions you have raised have been addressed in the updated Q & As and in the recent blog post by our CEO Lesley Cowley which can be found at:<http://www.nominet.org.uk/news/blog/time-change>. The balance of the questions you raised were outside the scope of the consultation as they were based on an assumption that the proposal is a foregone conclusion and the nature of the question focused on what are implementation or operational aspects. A number of the points you raised are helpful pieces of feedback and if you would like to expand further on them please submit a formal response to the consultation.

No. 12: Subject: Consultation on second level domain registration

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 26-07-2013

Very disappointed with your level of response on .uk and I do feel as an organization you are not being transparent on .uk.

It is not my full time job to monitor all aspects of the Nominet website, I did subscribe to .uk updates but I have not received any emails with links to more information, more q & A and blog statements from that subscription.

I do not consider that asking Nominet to show how they would implement .uk if it went ahead as outside the scope of .uk, as if the answer supplied was sensible and complete it would show more people that Nominet would do a good job on .uk and have thought it all through.

NO answers mean to me that Nominet will not do a good job if you go ahead with .uk and you are not prepared and have not thought through solving the problems created by .uk.

How can anybody say they are in favour of .uk or not if you don't explain fully what it involves?

Regarding your comment about assuming .uk is going ahead I refer to your own Q & A.

Q Are you going ahead with this?

We want to introduce second level domain names, as we believe that it is important to offer a trusted space that is attractive to registrants, and is able to compete with other suffixes, e.g .com or over 1,000 new GTLDS that will soon be available. But we will only do this if and when we have established the most practical and fair way to proceed.

We want anyone with a view on this to take part in our consultation.

“If establish a most practical and fair way to proceed” is not the same as should .uk go ahead at all, in my opinion.

I will be making a full report on the Nominet .uk proposal as I did last time and it will be circulated to media, MP's and business organizations.

I'm currently looking for financial support to publicise the report, so many more people will see the fullest .uk picture.

Sadly I fear it will not be able to put the full case for .uk as Nominet will not supply the answers requested to provide the full picture.

No. 13: Subject: Consultation on second level domain registration

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 26-07-2013

I would like the attachment to be added as part of the consultation process for .uk and it can be published in full.

Attachment: http://dnc.org.nz/content/registrations_second_level_2_anza.pdf

Please just change .nz for .uk and DNCL for Nominet and the points are all valid.

As the letter states “thanks ~~DNCL~~ *Nominet* for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with the Commission in greater detail.”

Sorry not all my points on .uk will come in one easy to manage email or online feedback form.

Rgds
Stephen

No. 14: Subject: Open House

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 27-07-2013

For version 1 .uk proposal Nominet set up its own telephone line is this the case for V2, if so please provide the number.

As the round table meetings to discuss .uk where only 2 hours and all the points were not covered and in light that in V1 Nominet held on open house for 7 hours about .uk, will Nominet be doing more round tables that are longer and / or another open house to gain the feedback Nominet seeks about its current .uk proposal?

Rgds
Stephen

No. 15: Subject: Question about emails to Registrants

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 28-07-2013

In the feedback on V1 .uk Nominet proposal it was stated that Nominet did look at sending emails to all registrants, probably as many agree that the introduction of .uk would be the biggest change to the UK namespace since it began.

“Others however, specifically criticised Nominet for not directly emailing each of the registrants of domains in .co.uk and other second level .uk domains to draw their attention to the consultation. **After taking legal advice, Nominet considered that it would be disproportionate to use the registrant contact data that had been provided to send unsolicited emails to registrants that were not specifically related to the provision of their existing registered domain(s).** Given the specific protections and prohibitions contained in the Data Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations, many of the registrants who might have received such an email could have objected that this was an inappropriate use of their contact data and contrary to their data protection rights.

Has Nominet received legal advice about sending out an email on its new .uk proposal?, as I believe the terms of your new proposal would not be caught by the previous legal advice, **so it would be possible to send out such an email to the owners of the 10,000,000 UK domains**, as you tried to do previously.

Please can you provide me with clarification of this area?

Rgds
Stephen

No. 16: Subject: New Zealand Law Society

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 28-07-2013

I would like the attachment to be added as part of the consultation process for .uk and it can be published in full.

Attachment: http://dnc.org.nz/content/registrations_second_level_2_nzls.pdf

Please just change .nz for .uk and DNCL for Nominet when reading and the points are all valid to some degree.

Sorry not all my points on .uk will come in one easy to manage email or online feedback form.

Please confirm receipt of this and the other .nz letter to be included I sent to you.

Rgds
Stephen

Response No.5 : Consultation on second level domain registration

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 01-08-2013

This email collectively responds to your emails of

28 July 2013, 17.59

27 July 2013, 17.55

26 July 2013, 13.21

26 July 2013, 12.19

1. The legal advice and position remains the same regarding this consultation and your question of emailing all .uk registrants. We will not send unsolicited emails that are not directly connected to the contract of registration.

2. We do not have a dedicated phone line as all staff have been trained to respond to queries pertaining to the consultation and how stakeholders can provide feedback or register their interest, rather than filter calls to a specific team.

3. Roundtables are one way in which we engage with stakeholders. There is no minimum or maximum number of hours required to gain feedback as this is a qualitative rather than quantitative exercise. We believe that the discussions so far have provided a helpful forum to exchange views and that the key issues raised by those in attendance were covered. Stakeholders are welcome to contribute formal feedback to the consultation on any points that they wish to raise – whether or not they were discussed in a meeting. We do not intend to carry out a similar Q&A Open House, as we found that attendance was broadly duplicative of that of the roundtables. We have subsequently modified our approach to accommodate the updating of Q&A's on our website which will benefit the wider stakeholder community, rather than those who can attend an event. Any dates for further roundtables will be advised on our website and via email to those stakeholders who have registered for updates.

4. We feel that we have addressed in so far as is possible your questions. You will note that we have added nine new Q&As to the website and many of your questions are already addressed in the consultation document or the existing Q&As. We also noted that many of your questions were comments or suggestions and hope that you will submit these in your formal feedback.

No. 17: Subject: Blog posts on .uk proposal

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 02-08-2013

Thank you for your reply, 1-8-13.

I'm a long way off having my final submission as it is based on information I that I find out, the search for which is still on-going.

I will try to distinguish suggestions, observations that may be useful to you and questions that I believe would assist others in how they respond to your .uk proposal, to help you and prevent me from chasing up on items you have already dealt with.

For exactness, regarding point number 1 are you saying you have had external legal advice specially about sending emails to all UK registrants about the new/current .uk proposal?

If you have not had such independent legal opinion about sending emails to UK registrants specifically about your new .uk proposal, I would be willing to provide one, at my cost if you would agree to send emails if it clearly stated in the opinion it was not against UK law. Please reply on this important point as in my experience these opinions take some time to obtain, also if you have a preference on legal firms to provide the opinion please provide me with the information.

I will check questions raised with your Q & A and see if there are loose ends, but thank you for updated your website.

I'm currently in Cyprus on holiday but will put in any time required on .uk due to its importance on the UK economy.

Hoping for a constructive and quick turnaround of responses as time seems to be galloping to your deadline.

No. 18: Subject: Blog posts on .uk proposal

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 03-08-2013 (reminder sent 19-08-13)

I have not yet had a response to my question about my posts not appearing in the Nominet blog and advising me when are they going to be made public and added to the comment blogs

All were added before the blog comments closed with the phrase they have been passed to the site supervisor.

If you feel it would be best for any of the posts to be edited before posting, please provide your logic and I will agree if it makes sense.

I'm following this up now as if I do not get a reply, I will be adding all the posted comments and the lack of a Nominet response to your feedback and allowing it to made public at the end.

But as always my concern is with improving the UK namespace not trying to make Nominet look bad, so I'm contacting you first in the hope you will resolve the issue swiftly.

Rgds Stephen Wilde

No. 19: Subject: .uk Transparency?

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 12-08-2013

I posted comments and questions on the Nominet blog "A time for change" <http://www.nominet.org.uk/news/blog/time-change>

these have not yet appeared despite several weeks passing.

I have sent several emails about this subject to Nominet, yet no meaningful reply.

Can this please be looked at the most senior level as it looks like there is no transparency about .uk at Nominet?

If you would prefer the questions raised are all dealt with in the questions and answers section but please deal with it rather than simply ignore them.

No. 20: Subject: .uk count of responses?

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 12-08-2013

During V1 .uk consultation Nominet made available during the process the number of responses/feedback received.

Would it be possible to please provide that information for the current .uk consultation together with a like for like comparison from v1 at the equivalent time lapse in the consultation?

Rgds
Stephen

No. 21: Subject: Blog posts on .uk proposal

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 20-08-2013

Regarding the .uk proposal and the requirement for a UK address.

Can you please confirm that Nominet has received external legal advice that requiring a UK address for a .uk holder does not contravene the .eu laws on restriction of trade for EU residents or companies that may want to own a .uk

Thank you as always for your co-operation with this request for information.

Rgds
Stephen

No. 22: Subject: No Replies

CEO – 20-08-2013

Time is running out on the consultation, may I remind you of your own words.

Posted by Lesley Cowley, 15 July 2013

We are now two weeks into [our consultation on second level registrations](#), **which proposes the biggest change to the .uk namespace since it began**. Those following this closely will know that we made some significant changes to the original proposal put forward last year.

I find that I'm getting no responses on my blog comment posts not even an acknowledgment that it is being looked into and my offer to fund an external legal opinion about sending out emails to your registrants about the consultation and I'm concerned time is passing.

In the first London round table that you did not attend, it was clearly stated Nominet recognized that it was facing trust issues and that it would be more transparent about the .uk proposal.

I'm finding no transparency and no desire it seems at Nominet to treat .uk as a serious matter.

No. 22: Subject: 3rd Round Table meeting?

sldr@nominet.org.uk – 21-08-2013

Can you clarify a statement on your website?

To date we have **hosted three roundtable discussions** to enable stakeholders to give us their comments. Our next event will be a stakeholder roundtable in Glasgow on Wednesday 11th September 2013. [Register your interest](#) in attending the meeting. Please note that priority will given to those stakeholders who have not already attended a roundtable meeting to discuss the proposals.

I only know of 2 in London that have happened so far, 10th July and the meeting after the AGM 22nd July, can you please provide details of the third round table you state you have hosted?

Also will you be publishing any debate content that happened at those meetings?

Rgds
Stephen

Response No.6 : Re: No Replies

CEO – 21-08-2013

Thank you for your email. I have only just returned from annual leave, which is why there has been a delay in my responding to your blog comments. I plan to do so shortly.

FYI, I was unable to attend the first round table due to five other meetings and interviews that had been scheduled in my diary for that day.

BLOG QUESTIONS RAISED

I have been advised by Nominet the questions fall outside the scope of the consultation and I was referred to the Nominet blog and the various documents that make up the proposal, suggesting that the answers I was seeking were there.

On reading the Blog "A Time for Change" by CEO Lesley Cowley 15th July 2013, almost every sentence in the blog post begs a question or a comment, so I posted the following as comments, all of which were accepted, but only the first one was made public and shown. Posted between 26-07-2013 to 29-07-2013.

I have repeatedly asked Nominet for responses and an explanation of why they have not been added to the blog but have not even had a reply from Nominet.

UPDATE : Reply received from Nominet after 10 reminder emails on 21 08 13 – saying they will respond shortly.

1 Transparent Research? (this was published)

Blog Quote: "However, our research tells us that second level domains are desirable"

Please publish this research and make the case for .uk, not just a guess that with new gTLD competition there will be problems and Nominet should do something.

Growth is not everything as every true business knows.

I feel that Nominet are not being transparent in this process.

2 Millions of Businesses?

Blog Quote: "launch of new gTLDs also represents a huge opportunity for the millions of businesses who are not currently online and want to secure their own domain name for the first time"

Can you please provide the proof and research behind this stated fact?

3 Cyber-crime?

Blog Quote: "Nominet ..huge effortin combating cyber-crime"

What results has Nominet achieved in the last several years in the area of reducing cyber crime?

What safeguards have Nominet put in place to reduce the huge potential for an increase in "cyber-crime" by the very introduction of .uk? and why has Nominet not even mentioned that this is a real possibility to those that don't understand the domain industry?

4 Currency Analogy!

Blog Quote: "It's fair to say that our system of third level registrations is out of step with the rest of the industry. We are the largest country code registry to still operate this way."

UK also operate the £ and many other EU countries use the Euro, under your logic, it is no brainer to switch currency over to the Euro, but don't point out any of the pitfalls.

As you have made a conscious decision to not point out any problems with the .uk introduction, under the method you have proposed.

5 non - government departments

Blog Quote: "As regards reserving names for some public bodies, we have been mindful of the government's digital transformation project, and with public interest in mind, we proposed that those bodies that would otherwise be orphaned would have a safe haven should second level registrations go ahead."

You have not even had confirmation those departments want those names and Nominet seems to making no effort to find out, if they want them.

If the effort was made, to confirm if they would be the preferred domain. You could possibly reduce the number of domains that you are suggesting reserving and update the owners of those equivalent UK domains.

6 Short Auctions

Blog Quote: "but we do appreciate there are corner cases, such as treatment of short domains, that require closer scrutiny."

As this was raised in the V1 .uk feedback as a special case, it is disappointing that Nominet did not address this and come up with a possible preferred solution and explain the reasons why.

As you did not address it fully, I would hope that Nominet deal with this soon to provide a possible solution before the V2 .uk consultation ends.

Rather than leaving such a inequitable situation to be left until the feedback is provided in November.

7 UK registrants by email?

Blog Quote: "We remain committed advocates of a multi-stakeholder approach to informing our policy development rather than a more top-down method of running the Internet."

Why not then contact all the UK registrants by email about .uk, as by your own admission the possible introduction of .uk would be the biggest change to the UK namespace since it began. Especially as the last Nominet committee to consider introducing .uk said "no" and a sizable portion of the feedback from V1 .uk was "no" to .uk.

8 5 years?

Blog Quote: "Our timeframe for this is not one or two years. Underlying this proposal is a consideration of how we act now in order that .uk will remain relevant over a 10 or 15 year period."

Then why not show us the proposed way "a great place" website to be will show how .uk would fit into the offering rather than one of the other UK tld's such as .org.uk and .co.uk?, which you pledge to support and what does that really mean?

Show the vision of what the UK namespace will look like in 5 years time with .uk.

What will really happen to .co.uk and what will happen in a few years time with different owners of .co.uk and .uk and the potential for cyber crime it creates?

Once you launch .uk there is no going back with an apology we were wrong!

9 Cost of change to .uk?

Blog Quote: "introduce this change in a way that is sensitive to registrants in terms of both cost and time"

At the London roundtable meeting 2 weeks ago, Nominet stated it was likely it would take up and use Nominet.uk.

Nominet also stated they had not investigated the costs of moving over, it may be because Nominet has millions of £'s in the bank.

Could you please now provide an estimate of the time and cost for Nominet as an organization to move from Nominet.org.uk to Nominet.uk as a guide to others?

Please provide the benefits Nominet itself would derive from the new domain?

Lastly what does that say to non-profit organizations on whether to register an .org.uk, when Nominet itself would not be using the extension?

10 Protection

From a greatplacetobe.co.uk - No.6 of How to choose a domain name

"If you can, register several similar domain names. For example, if you have 'yourname.me.uk' you could register 'yourname.co.uk' and 'yourname.org.uk' so no-one else can come in later and capitalise on your success."

This surely will lead to if you have the .uk register the .co.uk or vice versa and to all existing .co.uk registrants should surely be given the same advise register both the .uk and .co.uk version, so I don't see how this will create the millions of new business registrants you say you are trying to get with .uk

If your statement "a huge opportunity for the millions of businesses who are not currently online and want to secure their own domain name for the first time. They will soon be facing a vast array of domain name options and we believe that our revised proposals would appeal to these potential registrants. "

There is sufficient space in .co.uk for millions more registrations and if the .uk was paired with the .co.uk you would have the best of both, with none of the negative side effects your current plan has.

11 Growth?

Blog Quote: "We cannot ignore increasingly challenging market conditions, reduced renewal rates and a significant slowdown in growth."

You have sought new revenue from .wales but then gave surplus away to Welsh charity so nothing to invest from that.

It looks like growth for growth's sake at Nominet.

Many business/government departments in the last 6 years have had financial difficulties and most get on with the job of looking for efficiencies and cost savings.

Nominet has a monopoly on .uk domains and your solution is not to cut back but to use your power to extract more money from the same customers, probably doubling your turnover in the process and vastly improving your bonus pool and salaries, pensions etc. of those at Nominet.

12 Public Scrutiny?

Blog Quote: "As promised, we have now put our revised proposals up for public scrutiny once again." Thank you.

But as your revised.uk proposal are totally different from your original proposal. All the major benefits and reasons for .uk are not present in V2 that were present in V1, I don't think the board would have survived and possibly the government would have stepped in and taken over Nominet.

I have asked Nominet over 30 questions about .uk and I get advised look on Nominet Q & A and some questions are outside the scope of .uk as they are to do with after .uk gets introduced. If we don't know how you are going to manage the process, how is this putting your plan up for public scrutiny?

Nominet has the information and it will not share it.

Nominet have stated also they are going to be transparent with .uk, yet the round table in London to discuss the most important change in the UK naming system since it began had no none domain related businesses present apart from 1 representative of the small business association and they left early. Nominet are making no effort to bring this to the wider attention of UK stakeholders especially business and existing registrants which you state you are trying to help.

On this blog post there are at least 10 comment posts that I'm aware have been made in the last 18 hours that are still not showing on this blog, you could say it's the weekend now but the internet goes on 24/7 and Nominet cannot seem to cope with that.

13 Germany and New Zealand

Blog Quote: "the German registry – running .de – does not believe that gTLDs will pose a threat to them. However, I would argue that they will face less competition than English language domains"

I agree with the Germans the new domain names extensions will not create a threat to the UK namespace.

The UK namespace has faced new tld's such as .eu, .mobi, .travel .xxx in the last few years and has still maintained a very high percentage of usage of .co.uk in the UK internet space.

There may be a reduction in domain investors registering new .co.uk as they have lost faith in Nominet's ability to protect existing registrants. Dormant .co.uk domains are the majority of the 10,000,000 UK domains currently registered.

Regarding English speaking maybe a comment about New Zealand .nz and their current consultation would be nice.

When it was thought New Zealand were moving from .co.nz to .nz Nominet seized on it saying they should be followed, now they are not introducing it in the same way and their feedback which is online and updated during the consultation for full transparency is questioning whether .nz is needed at all as its introduction would

cause more problems that it would solve.

For full public scrutiny maybe Nominet should give a fuller picture of .uk.

14 Inside Track?

Blog Quote: "We remain committed advocates of a multi-stakeholder approach to informing our policy development rather than a more top-down method of running the Internet."

Can you please advise if Nominet had any meetings and/or communications with organizations outside Nominet to shape the current .uk proposal after the previous consultation closed, if so who were they?

15 Not Compatible!

Blog Quote: "..proposes the biggest change to the .uk namespace since it began" and "Our consultation is not a vehicle for us to put forward a business case"

I do not see your 2 statements as being compatible.

The business case needs to be put forward for .uk as it is the biggest change to the UK namespace possible, this was made very clear in the feedback from your last attempt to introduce .uk and reconfirmed at the recent round table meetings on your current .uk proposal.

Nominet provided a business case for .wales but not one for .uk?

16 Fair?

Blog Quote: "We have built into our proposals a mechanism for them to do this and we hope that it is as fair as possible"

The reason quoted for not adopting 'grandfathering rights' for .co.uk to .uk is the following statement from the background information:

"There are around 500,000 domains names, constituting 5% of the .uk registry that have identical third level strings – across more than one second level domain space. In some cases the registrants may be one and the same; however in most cases they will not be identical."

For 500,000 strings that is maximum 250,000 cases of which 30% would be same owners, so number down to 175,000, take out clear cyber squatting and the number is down to less than 100,000 cases, look at other factors and the problem domain cases would be a small fraction of under 1% of the total registry much less than the misleading headline figure Nominet uses.

Tiny number of problems compared to the millions of .co.uk owners who will lose out under the current Nominet .uk proposal.

Nominet have failed to supply the data to back up 500,000 and will not supply the breakdown of numbers of same ownership, 301 redirects, domains with no name servers, multiple tld strings, expiring domains etc. to make an informed decision on whether 'first registered' or '.co.uk / .uk pairing' would create less problems in the UK namespace to the 10,000,000+ existing registrants.

17 10,000,000 emails?

In the feedback on V1 .uk Nominet proposal it was stated that Nominet did look at sending emails to all registrants, probably as many agree that the introduction of .uk would be the biggest change to the UK namespace since it began.

"Others however, specifically criticised Nominet for not directly emailing each of the registrants of domains in .co.uk and other second level .uk domains to draw their attention to the consultation. After taking legal advice, Nominet considered that it would be disproportionate to use the registrant contact data that had been provided to send unsolicited emails to registrants that were not specifically related to the provision of their existing registered domain(s). Given the specific protections and prohibitions contained in the Data Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations, many of the registrants who might have received such an email could have objected that this was an inappropriate use of their contact data and contrary to their data protection rights."

Has Nominet received new legal advice about sending out an email to all registrants on its new .uk proposal? as I believe the terms of your new proposal would not be caught by the previous legal advice, so it would be possible to send out such an email to the owners of the 10,000,000 UK domains, as you tried to do previously.

The matter is equally important as it was last time, so every effort surely should be made to contact effected stakeholders.

Please can you provide clarification on this important area?

EXTRA NOTE: I have offered to pay for a external legal opinion that such an email would be legal as Nominet state they have an in house legal opinion stating it is illegal under spam rules to send out such an email. They have not responded to my offer.

18 New .uk Checking tool?

At the first Nominet round table meeting in London, I asked about whether Nominet would provide a new tool to check who was entitled to each .uk under your proposal. I was told it was being worked on and would be released shortly.

Hopefully it will also include the time registered to provide a resolution to when 2 or more domains were registered on the same day to 2 different owners.

I cannot find the new checking tool, some 3 weeks later.

Your website Questions and Answers on the subject state:
How do I know if I have a right of first refusal?

At the moment, you could check the status on the WHOIS database - by typing in your domain name string e.g.nominet.org.uk under each of the third levels offered

by Nominet e.g. .co.uk, .org.uk, .me.uk etc. You would be able to check whether your

registration is the only, or oldest one, within the .uk namespace by checking the 'relevant dates' section which tells you the date in which the domain was registered.

Can you please provide an update on when the new Nominet checking .uk tool will be available?

19 Grandfathering .co.uk to .uk

Blog Quote: "However, we are not starting with a blank sheet of paper. We are focussed on how to recognise the loyalty of existing registrants, many of whom feel entitled to the equivalent second-level domain."

In the feedback summary there was plenty of support for grandfathering rights for .co.uk to be given in all cases the .uk equivalent, as a 100% pairing solution.

In the V1 .uk feedback, there were 121 separate calls for .co.uk to have first rights over the equivalent .uk.

No calls for earliest registration or .org.uk to get the equivalent .uk.

If you check the feedback reports for V1 .uk you will find 8 separate quotes about grandfathering rights as an alternative option, you will not find any quotes or reference about "the oldest registrant gets a chance at the .uk, if they ever find out about it".

Also in the V1 .uk feedback you will not find out any comments about why you should not introduce .uk via the "oldest uk domain gets the .uk", although I know Nominet were provided with that information but due to it being outside the scope of your feedback it was not included in the feedback reports or considered when making up your current plan for .uk.

So what part of the V1 .uk feedback in the summary supports "first registration" rather than grandfathering .co.uk rights as a fairer method?

20 Change Nominet website?

Blog Quote: "We remain committed advocates of a multi-stakeholder approach to informing our policy development rather than a more top-down method of running the Internet."

Why then is Nominet not using its home page to show that Nominet is considering launching .uk?

Why is it so hard to find the .uk proposal on the Nominet website? (2 or 3 clicks and no easy navigation to it)

Why not have an easy to understand graphic and text with a link from Nominet's home webpage directly to the new .uk proposal.

Suggest you say something like "intend to introduce NEW .uk extension which would be the largest change to the UK internet, please read it and get involved and provide us with your views".

Currently to find the .uk proposal on the Nominet website you have to understand what

"Registration of second level domain names" means which is listed on the 2nd page after clicking "Direct .uk consultation" (home page with no explanation as what that means)

which is under .wales consultation,
which means the .uk proposal is not even top billing on the second page,
which is visited en route to the .uk proposal. (sorry its a bit confusing!)

Web navigation should ensure home page content tells you what and why something is important and get you directly to the page in one click (not 2 or 3 clicks as currently).

In my experience with registrants of .co.uk they often are not familiar with the terms "tld, gTLD's, second level domains",
so need to phrase .uk proposal in words the mainstream reader would understand.

Also something about the .uk proposal on agreatplacetobe.co.uk may be helpful to spread the news.

Please review Nominet website so the .uk proposal is publicized in plain English and easier to find for those trying to locate it.

21 Independent review of .uk? (not able to post as removed button to do so)

After the Nominet election results and releasing that the top 20 registrars control the board of Nominet and represented on it, the recent quote the New Zealand Law Society made in their feedback come into my mind:

Quote:

The DNCL stands to increase its revenue significantly from extra registrations under the proposed scheme. The Law Society is therefore concerned that the DNCL has a conflict of interest in undertaking this consultation and implementing the proposed registration scheme.

I have tried to keep away from the money angle, although Edwin did write a good V2 article on the subject recently or the Nominet bonus pool as being a reason for .uk.

But when I take the above and put it all together with the lack of a business case for .uk, the lack of effort by Nominet to advice people about the proposal and the lack of transparency even trying to supress free speech on the subject.

It is clear that .uk needs an independent review before it would go through rather the Nominet board of 10 to ensure it is in the best interest of the UK namespace.

I hope that some people may consider adding this thought into their feedback?

22+ Question: I may have asked more questions but Nominet then removed the ability to add extra comments to the Blog (which they do legitimately after a while to close the blog and to prevent spam posts). Like how much money from the £25,000,000 fees from .uk will Nominet be offering to the UK registrars to promote the new .uk?