

.uk Public Policy Partnership

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The Nominet UK Model

- Private not-for profit company, limited by guarantee
- Membership open to all (over 2,700 members)
- Mission – to act in the interests of the Local Internet Community
- Active participation of the Local Internet Community
- Liberal domain name policy (over 4,000,000 names)
- Strong registrar competition (over 3,000 registrars)
- Board of directors plus a Policy Advisory Board

Policy Development: The Policy Advisory Board

- Advisory body within Nominet's corporate structure:
 - 8 members elected from Nominet's membership
 - Up to 8 appointed from stakeholder organisations
 - Meets to debate policy issues every 2 months
 - Makes policy recommendations to the Board

How does the *.uk* Registry deal with its responsibilities?

- Stakeholder key issues:
 - Continuity/quality of service and technical robustness
 - Registration policies
 - Policy Development speed and involvement
 - Balancing conflicting interests

Relationship with public authorities

- Close working relationship with DTI and other government agencies
- No contract or written agreement

Impact of regulation

- No ccTLD specific regulation in place
- UK Government supports private sector self regulation
- Subject to EU and national laws eg Data protection, competition laws (eg agreements between undertakings)
- Implementation of Communications Act excludes domain names

Strengths of a private sector solution

- Limited by guarantee – capture or take over very difficult
- Open membership model; large membership
- Not for profit – surplus is invested not distributed
- Likely swift reaction to business decline through active membership
- Inclusive structures enable wide stakeholder consultation

Characteristics of the *.uk* model

- Industry self-regulation works well in a fast-changing environment
- Subsidiarity: only do at the global level what cannot be achieved at the local level
- Local solutions match the needs of local stakeholders
- Responsible registry, responsive to all stakeholder needs, not only the industry.
- Off-line laws apply
- *.uk*: a successful model of an informal and co-operative partnership between the private sector and government