.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