

ccNSO Geographical Indications ICANN75

Nick Wenban-Smith: UK perspective



The UK and Geographical Indications



- Relatively novel recognition and acceptance of GIs in the UK
- We became a signatory to TRIPS via membership of the EU, but post Brexit have retained all GIs previously granted under the EU scheme
- Required setting up new registers and now the UK has its own GI scheme and has become a supporter of GIs



Examples of UK protected GIs

Pisco (Peru)

Protected spirit drink name

From: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#)

Published 5 February 2021

Registered name: **Pisco**
Register: **[Spirit drinks](#)**
Status: **Registered**
Class or category of product: **9. Fruit spirit**
Protection type: **[Geographical Indication \(GI\)](#)**
Country of origin: **[Peru](#)**
Date of registration (UK scheme): **31 December 2020**
Time of registration (UK scheme): **23:00**
Date of original registration with the EU: **31 October 2013**
Reason for protection: **EU agreement**

Registered name: **Kentish Ale**
Register: **[Foods: designated origin and geographical indication](#)**
Status: **Registered**
Class or category of product: **[2.1 Beers](#)**
Protection type: **[Protected Geographical Indication \(PGI\)](#)**
Country of origin: **[United Kingdom](#)**
Date of registration (UK scheme): **31 December 2020**
Time of registration (UK scheme): **23:00**
Date of original registration with the EU: **21 June 1996**
Reason for protection: **UK geographical indication from before 2021**

Product specification

[Kentish Ale product specification](#)

Published 4 January 2021

Last updated 5 September 2022 [+ show all updates](#)



GIs and the .UK ccTLD



- Nominet provides a custom dispute resolution service (DRS) for .UK domain disputes
- The definition of protected Rights has always (since 2002) been wide enough to include GIs and is not limited to trade marks like the UDRP
- Examples of DRS cases for GI protected terms include champagne.co.uk and parmaham.co.uk
- Vast majority of cases are trade mark cases

Search Tools



Searchable WHOIS

[UK Domains](#)

[Domain Support](#)

[Additional Domains](#)

[Events](#)

[Policies](#)

[Search for a Domain](#)

When it comes to protecting your rights over a domain name, it helps to have as much information as possible

That's where our Searchable WHOIS comes in. This useful tool allows you to search the .UK, .cymru and .wales registers for exact and similar domain names. This could be used for:

- © Establishing or defending intellectual property rights over a domain name
- © Gathering information for any domain name disputes, or investigating and prosecuting possible offences, such as false identities and fraudulent websites
- © Carrying out academic research and government functions



In summary

- Not directly impacted by the EU Regs post Brexit
- GIs are already protected terms, subject to the requirement for abusive use and free speech safe harbours
- We already provide search and alerts for terms in the .UK register via Searchable WHOIS
- Existing arrangements currently work fine!

