



Non-executive director elections 2015

Candidate statements

This booklet contains the election statement, curriculum vitae, declaration of interests and answers to pre-election questions of each candidate standing for non-executive director election.

The role

Nominet's Board is responsible for making strategic and policy decisions and for the oversight and good governance of the Company. Board meetings are currently held every two months and take one day each. In addition directors are expected to attend induction sessions, committee meetings (there are several Board sub-committees), strategy away days and other official events. One Board member is also on the Board of Nominet Trust. The minimum time commitment is 30 days each year. The non-executive fee is £32k per annum and is reviewed annually in line with our overall remuneration policy.

Non-executive director responsibilities

- *Contributing to strategy* – by bringing an external perspective and their skills and experience to strategy development.
- *Contributing to effective decision-making* – by constructive challenge and being team players.
- *Oversight* – by monitoring and reviewing the performance of executive management in achieving the company's vision and strategic objectives.
- *Support* – by contributing their external perspective, skills and experience to support the leadership and development of Nominet going forward.
- *Networking* – by making connections with their own networks of contacts to enhance the company's public standing and reputation.
- *Committee membership* – by serving on sub and ad hoc committees as appropriate.
- *Other participation* – by participating in Nominet member, customer and other stakeholder community events. This may include participation in the policy development process for .uk.
- *Avoiding conflicts of interest* – to ensure that you do not allow yourself to be compromised by any interests other than those of Nominet.

The Nominee

The ideal candidate for this role would match the criteria below.

Qualifications and experience

- Demonstrable ability and preferably, although not essentially, experience of being a non-executive director.
- A successful track record of leading the formulation and delivery of successful corporate objectives, strategies and policies.
- Demonstrable experience in a high performing team at Board level.
- A track record that demonstrates a solid understanding of the efficient and effective management of an organisation's financial, human and other assets, and evidence of having delivered improved performance and the better use of resources.
- Evidence of having made an outstanding contribution within your industry or profession.
- Track record of making independent, well-balanced and sound judgements, particularly when under public scrutiny or subject to lobbying.
- Background in both commercial and non-commercial environments.
- Effective and confident communication skills – listening, written and verbal.
- A track record of consensus building with stakeholders both within and outside your organisation.
- Experience of operating in dynamic strategic environments.

Ability, skills and knowledge

- The resilience and integrity to reach well balanced judgements in an impartial, objective and transparent manner.
- An ability to consider the wider issues rather than only be involved in the detail.
- Demonstrate a sense of depth and rigour in decision making.
- An understanding of the cultural differences between private and public sector stakeholders.
- An understanding of the internet, including social media, as a user.
- Knowledge of the broader technology sector.

Personal style and behaviour

- Demonstrate a clear thinking and practical style.
- Good communication skills and a clear speaking style.
- The ability to listen to and empathise with stakeholders at all levels.
- Be personally credible to stakeholders.
- Work constructively with Nominet's staff and other Board members.

VOTE BY INTERNET

1. Go to www.votepopularis.com/nominet and follow the online instructions.
2. Click on the link for Non-Executive Director Elections.
3. You must enter a name as authorised to vote in this election on behalf of your organisation.

VOTE BY POST

1. Complete the ballot paper enclosed.
2. Place your ballot paper in the pre-paid envelope provided and post to Popularis Ltd, Independent Scrutineer, Nutsey Lane, Totton, Southampton SO40 3RL or bring it along to the AGM and hand it to the representative of Popularis Ltd.

ALL POSTAL OR ELECTRONIC VOTES MUST REACH POPULARIS LTD NO LATER THAN 12 NOON ON 2 JUNE.

Votes received after that time will not be included in the count.

You may only cast your votes by using the internet system OR by post. Please do not use both systems or ALL your votes will be disregarded.

An explanation of Single Transferable Voting (STV)

There are various methodologies that can be used for calculating the results of a poll by Single Transferable Vote. Nominet uses the Hare-Clarke method which is a variation of preferential counting called proportional preferential. An explanation of how preferences are counted in these elections can be found on our web site www.nominet.org.uk/voting

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Dickie Armour

Proposed by: Seb de Lemos – Paragon Internet Group Ltd

With two years on the Nominet board already, Dickie is an obvious choice for re-election. If you've been fortunate enough to meet him you will understand the enthusiasm he carries for Nominet, and for the domain industry as a whole. You'll know how engaging he is as an individual and how deep his experience and knowledge is, both within and outside the industry. But you will also know how willing he is to discuss feedback and criticisms of Nominet decisions.

The Nominet I am fondest of is an organisation whose identity reflects the UK small business community; a backbone of registrars pursuing their own goals and complimenting each other. When I started out and finally managed to justify the Nominet membership fee I was grateful that I was given a level playing field against the larger registrars. Nominet has many stakeholders and without a voice like Dickie's we risk Nominet becoming focused on the needs of the top few registrars, or overly bureaucratic and policy-driven.

I'm therefore delighted to propose Dickie for re-election.

Seconded by: Nick De Monte – LCN.com Ltd

Having known Dickie Armour for a number of years I believe he has a great mix of skills to bring to the Nominet board. Dickie is passionate about the Internet and technology, which is immediately apparent when talking to him and he is always willing to listen to new ideas and opinions.

Dickie has a wealth of commercial experience to draw on from his time in the domain name and hosting industry and understands the challenges both small and big businesses face on the web. Dickie's career as a stockbroker in the City brings solid business and financial understanding to the table, which I believe will be invaluable to Nominet board.

I have always found Dickie to be very approachable and friendly, communicating his ideas and opinions in a balanced and clear manner. He is a good team player, refreshingly open and honest with a clear drive to succeed. I am confident that Dickie can continue to provide great value to the Nominet Board.

Election Statement

I am passionate about Nominet and its future and believe I have the required business acumen, and that my many years of experience running a variety of businesses and serving on the board of Nominet, will continue to be of value.

Nominet is a very successful company with an ever increasing turnover. It is a sizeable business and the membership needs to make sure that the non-executive directors not only have the relevant experience in running businesses of this stature but also have the key skills too.

Nominet has entered a new phase with a change of CEO and last year a change of structure with C-Level roles reporting directly to the CEO. Nominet has entered the new gTLD market with the successful launch of .wales and .cymru along with a few dot brands such as .bbc and .comcast and .bentley. The marketplace is changing at an increasingly faster pace and we need to ensure that Nominet keeps up with and can react to the ever changing market forces. There is increasing pressure for the Internet to be regulated in a formal way and some of that pressure comes from the international market as well as Government.

Nominet has done a great job of being active internationally to influence the debate and I fully support this. I still believe that the self-regulated Internet works and avoids a lot of the unnecessary red tape that governance would undoubtedly bring. Nominet does an excellent job, with their excellent staff, of

keeping the UK domain name space safe and trusted.

By the time of the Nominet AGM in June we will have had the General Election and we may have a change of Government. I'm pleased to say Nominet's Policy team have good relationships with the key ministers in all the main parties and I'm confident we will be able to satisfy any new Government that self-regulation continues to be the best form of regulating our industry.

Two important factors any board needs are stability and a good, cohesive team. We definitely have that right now. We are a good board and we work incredibly well together and I want to continue the great work we've done to date with my board colleagues and going forward into an ever evolving business landscape.

Nominet is a truly brilliant company and I've been proud to have been actively involved in the oversight and decision making during my time on the board. My experience as an ex-stockbroker of 16 years has proved invaluable whilst serving on the Investment Committee.

Nominet has some exciting and challenging times ahead and needs to make certain that it remains well placed to react to the rapidly changing marketplace. This is my last term as a member elected non-executive director of Nominet and I would like the chance to continue to make a positive contribution and I ask for your support.

Curriculum Vitae

I am General Manager of Fibrant Services Ltd and have been involved in the group directly and indirectly since 1999. I have over fifteen years experience of running Internet based businesses predominately based around domain name registration, software and web development and web hosting. Our main business interests are www.freeparking.co.uk www.fibrant-services.co.uk and www.mybrandemail.com which is a Fibrant service.

I also have an interest in Business Mentors Club. I offer some mentoring services as my way of giving back to local businesses who need help and guidance on their businesses.

I'm very active on Social Media using platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. Social Media is a brilliant marketing tool and all businesses should be embracing the use of it.

I was elected on to the board of Nominet in 2011 and am on the Audit committee and the Investment Committee.

I have relished my time on the board and feel that I have brought a new perspective and great experience both from my viewpoint as a Registrar but also from dealing with a huge number of small businesses as well as global brands.

Prior to the dot com crash I was Global Head of Sales concentrating on eCommerce software. After the crash I ran the dedicated server business within NTWebhost and PowerHost. Both businesses were successfully sold to Tollon Ltd in December 2002 and I went as part of the deal. I was Managing Director of Tollon for two years and oversaw all aspects of the hosting business from domain name registration and hosting through to broadband and software development. I sat on a round table forum at Microsoft's first ever UK Hosting event and worked closely with Microsoft whilst we adopted their SPLA licencing model. Having served my time at Tollon I left and came back to Fibrant Services Ltd.

Prior to my Internet business life I was a stockbroker in the City for just over sixteen years. I began on the floor of the Stock Exchange and in 1983, at seventeen; I was the youngest dealer on the floor. I saw huge changes during my career, from Big Bang in 1986 through to the introduction of

electronic trading in the late 90s. The last firm I worked for in the City was Cantor Fitzgerald International where I helped introduce their e-Speed business, a new electronic trading platform which the market makers used to enter their own prices into Cantor's systems. It was the first of its kind.

I have over thirty-two years experience in business, well developed interpersonal skills and a proven background in developing and maintaining business relationships at the highest levels. I am self motivated, highly positive and a good team player. I am honest and still follow the Stock Exchange's motto; "Dictum Meum Pactum": my word is my bond. I have been successful in helping run many businesses across a range of sectors and I hope I can continue to contribute and make a difference as a non-executive director of Nominet.

Declaration of Interests:

Question 1

Are you or is any person connected to you a Director, shareholder, or employee of a company which is:

- A member of Nominet?
- In partnership with Nominet?
- In a Joint Venture with Nominet?

Yes, I'm General Manager of Fibrinet Services Ltd. I'm an employee and not a director nor do I have a shareholding in the company.

In fact, I am not a director of any other company nor a shareholder in any business, apart from standard pensions and investments.

Question 2

Are you a member of Nominet in your own right?

Yes I am by virtue of my current directorship of Nominet.

Question 3

Have you, or any person connected with you, been a registrant of any .uk or .wales/.cymru domains over the past five years? If so, please provide full details.

Yes. I am the Registrant of about 40 .uk domain names.

Question 4

Have you, or any person connected with you, been a Nominet registrar during the past five years. If so, please provide details of all relevant tags, together with the number of domains registered under each tag.

Fibrinet Services Ltd is a Registrar. The Tag is FIBRINET.

Domains = 49,000 approx

We had another Tag – ACTIVEBYTES but this is now dormant.

Domains = 0

Question 5

Does any person you are associated with have any of the following relationships with Nominet?

By "associated", we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

- Supplier
- Customer (as registrant or registrar)
- Competitor
- Banking
- Distribution
- Any other ongoing, but material relationship (such as a dispute)

Please provide full details.

No, other than above as an employee of Fibrinet Services Ltd.

Question 6

Are you associated with any adviser to Nominet?

By "associated", we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

Examples include:

- Audit
- Tax
- Legal
- Investment banking
- Pensions or investments
- Management consultancy

Please provide full details.

No.

Question 7

Are you a member of a Committee or a Commission or do you have a material position with a Regulator, any department of Government, a Trade Body, a Professional Body or a Charitable Organisation?

Examples include where the relevant organisation:

- Influences government policy
- Influences accounting standards
- Is preparing industry guidance

No.

Question 8

Are you associated with an investment organisation of any nature?

By "associated", we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

Examples include:

- Venture capital/private equity
- Hedge fund
- Investment trust/fund
- An organisation taking material positions in shares or securities

Please provide full details.

No.

Question 9

Are you in a position that you (or a company you are a director, employee, or material shareholder of) could make a profit as a result of your directorship of Nominet?

No, other than above as an employee of Fibrinet Services Ltd.

Question 10

Do you know of any other circumstances that could give rise to a potential or actual conflict of interest or duties?

As an employee of a Nominet Registrar I recognise that I am potentially conflicted in my role as a member elected NED. However I am always very careful to declare my interest in any Registrar related matters and do not participate in Board discussions or votes where I may be conflicted.

Dickie Armour continued

Election Answers

Question A

Nominet's constitution provides that its activities are to be carried out for the public benefit. In the context of a domain name registry, what does this mean to you?

Nominet represents the public when looking after the .uk registry. The Internet is a self-regulated industry and I think that's a great thing. This allows Nominet to be flexible enough that it can move with the times without being wrapped up in unnecessary red tape. The UK domain name space is a valuable asset and not only does Nominet represent the membership; it also represents wider stakeholders and the public and does a brilliant job of that in my opinion.

Question B

The Nominet Board places a high degree of importance on each director being able to exercise independent judgement, free from any conflicts of interest. Please describe how you would be able to fulfil your duties in the light of your involvement in the domain name industry or your other commercial interests.

I've been a man of my word all my life. I am very able to put aside any personal or business interests and look at the whole picture from an impartial viewpoint for the benefit of Nominet and the entire membership. If and when any potential conflicts have arisen during the past 2 years I have declared them and left the meeting on those occasions it has been required. If re-elected this year, I will continue to declare any conflicts and potential conflicts and remove myself from the meetings when required.

Question C

As a non-executive director you will be given access to confidential information about Nominet's business and the commercial dealings which Nominet has with each of its members. In the light of Nominet being a membership organisation, and any member relationships that you may have, please describe how you will comply with your confidentiality obligations, and avoid the perception that one or more members may be given an unfair commercial advantage as the result of your election.

I am standing to represent nobody but myself. I am not a political animal. As said before, I'm a man of my word. I take all confidentiality obligations seriously and have never given any unfair commercial advantage to any Nominet member and nor will I in the future.

Question D

Joining the Nominet Board is a serious commitment both in terms of preparation time and attending meetings. We estimate a minimum annual commitment of 30 days. In the light of your other employment, business and personal commitments, please describe how you are able to meet this commitment.

Fibrant Services Ltd is committed to Nominet. We respect the work that the board and staff have done over the 17 years we've been involved and as General Manager, I am free to find time for this important commitment. My attendance record has been excellent over the past 2 years and I am absolutely committed to keep this record up for the next 2 years too. I have the full backing of the company in this application.

Paul Barnett

Proposed by: Sara Rego, UK2 Group

UK Group, Sara Rego, nominates Paul Barnett for non-exec at Nominet

UK2 Group is delighted to support Paul Barnett's candidacy for the role of non-executive director for Nominet. As a longstanding user of Nominet and a firm believer in the organisation's purpose, we feel that Paul is well-placed to help the organisation bolster its customer-centric approach and further cement its position as a world class domain registry. We know through our longstanding relationship that Paul is a passionate proponent of open communication and that in this role he will champion members' viewpoints in an objective and results-focused manner to ensure all voices are heard and considered. These qualities make him an ideal addition to Nominet's management.

Seconded by: David Barker, 4D Independent UK data centre

I have known Paul for over ten years since the early days of starting his ISP business, we've worked closely together in the past on a number of projects and I've always found his dedication to getting the right solution in place to be commendable. He's always been approachable and able to approach problems with fresh ideas, I believe that within Nominet this will be a key skill as the organisation looks to navigate the changes that are happening within the domain registrar landscape along with the possibility of deeper regulatory scrutiny.

His ideas to bring simplification into Nominet processes is one that I support, with a lot of additional complexity to Nominet relationships with its members having been brought in over the past few years. The removal of charges by some registrars for changing IPSTAGs on the exit of one of their clients is something that I feel strongly about, as it limits the ability for clients and domain holders to be able to move freely between registrars which was one of the founding principles of the Nominet TAG system.

As a Director of Nominet he will bring his wealth of experience in running a hosting, domain and ISP business to the Nominet board; being able to draw upon his knowledge of the market along and how users want to be able to manage their domains.

Election Statement

Nominet has an inherent and long standing uniqueness on the World stage, and an organisation I have grown up with throughout my entrepreneurial career. I would relish the opportunity to oversee this operation through arguably some of the most challenging and exciting years of the Internet, ensuring that throughout Nominet continues to deliver the highest standards, unlocks its full potential, and above all else avoiding complacency.

We live in uncertain times where Nominet's independence will be under increased scrutiny. Successive governments have been trying to implement change, which no matter how good the intention is, goes against a free and open Internet. Nominet should not be dictated by, but should be pro-actively leading, public discussions on a safer Internet. Also helping deliver the education needed, not only to the decision makers but, to a wider audience who can create the safety they desire without government interference. Nominet has a great opportunity to enhance its public standing but, from my stand point, seems to have featured little in these discussions.

One of the core features that helps Nominet remain truly special is the tag system, allowing for the free and flowing movement of domain names between registrars. It is a wonderfully simplistic model that lends itself to the idea of delivering a human touch to technology. Like no other it allows for the consumer to drive movement should their requirements change or their needs not be met. I encourage Nominet to recognise the importance of

keeping this path as free and open as possible, without dominant parties hindering its natural path or profiteering from it.

I am an avid believer in continuous development, a desire to learn, with freedom and willingness to share ideas within organisations. I apply these fundamental ideas on a daily basis within my own organisations. ICUK is an ISP which has grown from a reseller to supporting its own reseller base. CIX is in many respects a social media dinosaur, which like Nominet, has a balancing act to play across its member base. Throughout the life of ICUK I have continued to make myself available on the front line of support to best understand the challenges our customers face. By listening to and addressing these conversations I have helped formulate solutions either via R&D or in the streamlining of processes. All of which are relevant and can be applied to the evolution of Nominet.

I believe new channels of communication need to be explored. The presentation of communication isn't always simple, and for smaller members in particular, the time available to digest discussion is limited. Nominet cannot benefit solely from the voices who speak up the most, shout the loudest, or who have the resource to dedicate to ensuring their view is heard. We need new ways of starting conversations, where questions surrounding change can be presented concisely to the full membership base. Only then may the masses, and not the weighted, be heard.

I look forward to ensuring Nominet's potential is unlocked, and that together the membership base believes that it is delivering something special with a wider purpose.

Curriculum Vitae

Name: Paul Barnett
Contact: paul@icuk.net
Date of birth: 10th March 1982
Nationality: British
About me: Please forgive the unusual structure of this CV, it's the first I have ever had to write. I am an enthusiastic and passionate entrepreneur with excellent written and verbal communication skills. I am co-founder of ICUK, an ISP. In addition to this I'm a director of CIX, which started 28 years ago and remains one of the oldest social networks in the World today.

Skills and Experience

- Co-founded ICUK in 2001, which started life selling 0845 dial-up minutes.
- Helped develop ICUK, initially reselling third party hosting and broadband.
- Have been involved in every aspect of ICUK, including customer service and support, sales, marketing, development and accounts. ICUK now service some 60,000+ end users via 650+ resellers.
- Founded Red Telecom as a stepping stone into the telecoms arena.
- Merged Red Telecom into ICUK, creating the first hosting, broadband and telecoms reseller platform in the market.
- In 2011 helped oversee ICUK's acquisition of CIX – this was ICUK's first acquisition. CIX has suffered a chequered past, much of which ICUK had witnessed as a customer, but we recognised the inherent worth of the business.
- Overseen the integration of BT Wholesale and Openreach systems into ICUK.
- Active member, since its formation, of Croydon Tech City. It is now London's 2nd largest tech hub where I act as a mentor for start-ups.

Paul Barnett continued

Building ICUK

- Became tired of third parties and the obstacles put in our path so set to misspend my youth to create a better reseller platform, written entirely in-house for maximum flexibility.
- ICUK was started from a bedroom, has seen profits channelled back into the business, and to this date has remained profitable and debt free.
- Growth for the first 10 years was solely through word of mouth and recommendation, with no marketing expenditure.
- ICUK has successfully achieved numerous awards and recognition for its platform and commitment to customer service.
- The majority of my daily activities now centre around the delivery of excellence in customer service and overseeing the architecture of future developments.

Current Roles

- Co-founder & Director: ICUK Computing Services Ltd; ISP (2001 – present)
- Director: CIX Online Ltd; Social Network (2011 – present)

Education

- John Fisher School
 - 11x GCSE
 - 3x A-Level: *Business Studies (A), Design Technology (A), Physics (C)*
- Oxford Brookes University (2000 – 2004)
 - BA (Hons), *Business & Marketing Management*

Interests

I live with my Fiancée in Purley, Surrey and set to marry in January 2016. I am a great lover of wine and would love nothing more than to have my own vineyard in years to come. My big passion in life has been cars, starting from my first car washing enterprise, through to turning the dream cars into reality.

Declaration of Interests:

Question 1

Are you or is any person connected with you a Director, shareholder, or employee of a company which is:

- A member of Nominet?
- In partnership with Nominet?
- In a Joint Venture with Nominet?

I am a director of ICUK Computing Services Ltd and CIX Online Ltd, both of which are Nominet Tag holders.

Question 2

Are you a member of Nominet in your own right?

I do not hold personal membership of Nominet, only via my directorship in ICUK and CIX.

Question 3

Have you, or any person connected with you, been a registrant of any .uk or .wales/.cymru domains over the past five years? If so, please provide full details.

My fiancée is a freelance publisher/proof reader. Her website is plainpaperpublishing.co.uk (work in progress)

My brother, who also works for ICUK, has a personal CV website – neilbarnett.co.uk.

Question 4

Have you, or any person connected with you, been a Nominet registrar during the past five years. If so, please provide details of all relevant tags, together with the number of domains registered under each tag.

ICUK – 11431 domains

CIXONLINE – 186 domains

INTERDNS (white label name of ICUK) – 16 domains

Question 5

Does any person you are associated with have any of the following relationships with Nominet?

By “associated”, we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

- Supplier
- Customer (as registrant or registrar)
- Competitor
- Banking
- Distribution
- Any other ongoing, but material relationship (such as a dispute)

Please provide full details.

Only as per above. No further association.

Question 6

Are you associated with any adviser to Nominet?

By “associated”, we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

Examples include:

- Audit
- Tax
- Legal
- Investment banking
- Pensions or investments
- Management consultancy

Please provide full details.

No association.

Question 7

Are you a member of a Committee or a Commission or do you have a material position with a Regulator, any department of Government, a Trade Body, a Professional Body or a Charitable Organisation?

Examples include where the relevant organisation:

- Influences government policy
- Influences accounting standards
- Is preparing industry guidance

No association.

Question 8

Are you associated with an investment organisation of any nature?

By “associated”, we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

Examples include:

- Venture capital/private equity
- Hedge fund
- Investment trust/fund
- An organisation taking material positions in shares or securities

Please provide full details.

No association.

Question 9

Are you in a position that you (or a company you are a director, employee, or material shareholder of) could make a profit as a result of your directorship of Nominet?

In the position as director of Nominet I have the ability shape its direction. All Nominet members would be in equal standing of direction change. Therefore I am not in a position to directly profit from this role.

Question 10

Do you know of any other circumstances that could give rise to a potential or actual conflict of interest or duties?

To cannot envisage any other circumstances that could give rise to a potential or actual conflict of interest.

Election Answers

Question A

Nominet's constitution provides that its activities are to be carried out for the public benefit. In the context of a domain name registry, what does this mean to you?

To be of public benefit you must look beyond your own desires, and ensure that what you actually deliver will aid a wider audience. For a domain registry, with public benefit at its core, it should look to deliver a commercially viable, trusted and open service.

Delivery of a commercially fit product is of equal importance to all stakeholders whether they be the registrar trying to promote it, or for the consumer to factor this in their decision making process. Equally for Nominet to fulfil its aims via its charitable trusts a profit still needs to be obtained.

Trust is an equal, and increasingly important, measure of worth. It's not something you can achieve easily, it's a long standing achievement and arguably the most important element to delivering credible fulfilment of public benefit. It's achieved from the top down, instilling policies that are designed to better serve not only the stakeholders who invest in the registry, but the Internet audience as a whole.

By delivering an open and transparent service, stakeholders can interact ensuring that Nominet's ideals of delivery for public purpose are being upheld.

With a plethora of registries vying for attention, by delivering a solution for public benefit you may be able to deliver significant competitive advantage.

Question B

The Nominet Board places a high degree of importance on each director being able to exercise independent judgement, free from any conflicts of interest. Please describe how you would be able to fulfil your duties in the light of your involvement in the domain name industry or your other commercial interests.

This position is about doing right by the stakeholders of Nominet. Decisions taken will be in light of Nominet's values and strengths, and in complete separation from my commercial interests. I believe my experience and knowledge of this industry can only help better serve the majority of members, many of which I know feel detached. My experience and knowledge span 13 years and will be provided on a wider basis, as opposed to tackling individual or personal business matters. In doing so I would hope

that all stakeholders will be better off for my involvement in this industry.

I am more than capable, and will, keep a separation from Nominet and my own commercial interests.

Question C

As a non-executive director you will be given access to confidential information about Nominet's business and the commercial dealings which Nominet has with each of its members. In the light of Nominet being a membership organisation, and any member relationships that you may have, please describe how you will comply with your confidentiality obligations, and avoid the perception that one or more members may be given an unfair commercial advantage as the result of your election.

Entry into this process is not for the gain of any single business interests. Instead I am here to serve the Nominet stakeholders, ensuring that neutrality across the membership base remain. This is after all what makes Nominet special; that all members operate on a level and equal footing, and why I wish to stand for the board.

Confidentiality is something I have to deal with on a daily basis. My companies service tens of thousands of clients, many of which are competing resellers operating in the same market space. I will apply the same level of respect to the members of Nominet, any information received to be held outside of my business interests, and for the sole benefit of Nominet.

Question D

Joining the Nominet Board is a serious commitment both in terms of preparation time and attending meetings. We estimate a minimum annual commitment of 30 days. In the light of your other employment, business and personal commitments, please describe how you are able to meet this commitment.

Prior to entering this process permission was sought from the boards of ICUK and CIX, of whom I am a director and shareholder. In both instances the boards agreed that I am able to take the time needed to fulfil my duties with Nominet. The boards are appreciative of the honour of the role and are fully supportive in allowing me to take time out to fulfil the obligations that Nominet set.

I have not entered this process without thought as to the time being sacrificed. I am confident that my time spent will extend beyond what is expected and that the enthusiasm and energy I have for my own businesses, can be equally applied to Nominet.

Rob Golding

Proposed by: Jon Morby, FidoNet

I, Jon Morby, representative for Nominet Member FidoNet Registration Services Ltd (FIDONET) would like to propose Rob Golding of Astutium Ltd for the role of member-elected non-executive director of Nominet

I have known Rob in a professional and personal capacity for almost 20 years, during which time he has been involved in all aspects of being an Internet Service Provider – as manager of several domain registrars and web hosts, a software developer, a peering point co-ordinator and even a cabling contractor !

He is always willing to provide expert advice and hands-on assistance when asked.

As a long-time member and supporter of Nominet, Rob assures me he is passionate about its membership and independence, which combined with his extensive industry and business experience makes him an ideal candidate for the Nominet board

Seconded by: Karl Austin, KDA Web Services Ltd

I, Karl Austin, representative for Nominet Member KDA Web Services Ltd. propose Rob Golding of Astutium Ltd. for the role of member-elected non-executive director of Nominet.

I have known Rob for nearly 15 years and think he will make an ideal candidate to take Nominet forward and improve relations with members, especially smaller members. Rob isn't afraid to talk to people and make himself known and available to them. Rob has extensive domain experience with the UK namespace and as an ICANN accredited registrar as well as a sound understanding of accounting and finance.

Election Statement

My name is Rob Golding and I am a domain addict – it has been almost 3 minutes since my last dns request

I love the internet, it is step one towards things we haven't even dreamed of.

I am a volunteer on multiple ICANN policy-development-process (PDP) working groups – several of which span 4+ years involvement relating to WHOIS, Privacy, Transfers, Onboarding all as an active member, and others as a watcher/passive participant within the gTLD namespace

In addition to being a director of a Nominet member, I have bought, sold, started, managed and consulted for companies which are Tag Holders since the founding of Nominet – domains are definitely 'my thing'

The success of Nominet results from the unique organisation structure. We have this amazing 'mutual monopoly' with a commission to serve not only dotUK but the diverse range UK internet users and beyond.

As a regular attendee at events regarding domains (ICANN/Nominet/EurID), peering (LINX, AMS-IX), governance (IGF/RIPE), hosting (IW/HostingCon), forums (UKNOF) and as a speaker at events like Business Startup shows, discussions about internet policies & policing with numerous stakeholder groups are common

I believe that now is when my work experiences in the business, finance, software, legal and internet fields can add to the effectiveness of your board.

My Vision of the Future at Nominet

The road ahead for Nominet clearly has many challenges coming: increased government regulation of communications, IANA transition and new TLDs need solutions that remain inline with the public benefit charter.

It is essential Nominet not only 'looks ahead' at what is to come, but always remembers why it was created, who it ultimately is responsible to and how it fulfils the agreed constitution.

I want Nominet to do:

- study into .UK takeup/use, and stakeholder understanding in advance of the YS 'deadline'
- analysis of the NRS as a model and possible alternative solution(s)
- increased member consultations and involvement
- more outreach to the wider community
- review of less-known/used projects such as ENUM

I expect the board to ensure Nominet:

- supports the needs of the whole membership
- fulfils the duty of care to registrants in safety, security and privacy
- retains the trust of (+ freedom from) governmental interference
- meets concrete goals on the public benefit agenda

I do not believe that Nominet should put the requests of some stakeholder groups above others, but must consider the impact across all of them. I also believe that members should all be treated equally – whether large or small, you are a member and you matter.

I am passionate and vocal about this industry and very interested in hearing from members with their thoughts and concerns.

Thank you for taking the time to read and your feedback is welcomed. Your voice matters and your vote counts, so please do exercise them.

Curriculum Vitae

Name: Robert David Golding
Contact: rob@golding.me.uk
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/astutiumrob>
 +44.7805.6875.01

Age: 45

Nationality: British

For over 30 years I have worked across the public, private, retail, online and regulatory sectors in a range of roles and across a broad set of sectors and types – both profit and not-for-profit

In my roles at Astutium Ltd I work in 4 main areas

Mergers and Acquisitions

- performing the analysis of accounting records for business valuations
- software/system integrations and trouble-free migrations
- production of due-diligence documentation
- managing the transition of staff

These tasks are performed for Astutium on companies we purchase, and for 3rd-parties

Consultancy

- assistance with network implementation, ripe work, peering and routing
- turning user requirements into usable specifications
- speaking at business exhibitions and events
- attending networking evenings and launches

Policy

- Participation in ICANN cross-community policy multi-stakeholder working groups
- Representing the average internet user at IGF events
- Attendance and networking with at industry functions

Contracting to Solicitors and Barristers

I work as an Expert Witness providing independent reports based on my investigations into the evidence for use in Crown Court cases relating to the misuse of computers and computing resources, falsification of data/records, and internet related issues.

- Creation of court documentation, independent and joint-expert reports
- Presenting evidence at court as part of trial
- Providing input to barristers, solicitors and judges on technology

The key strengths my work experience brings to the board the combination of working across tech, accounts and legal work all with a track record of delivering on-time & in budget

Past Roles and Accomplishments**Othello Technology Systems**

Director (1996-2012)

All aspects of running a business

- Full automation of domain name services, ICANN accreditation and integration
- Liaising with customers and suppliers as part of ongoing ISO9001 QA processes
- Representing Othello at industry specific events and networking functions

Chorver Internet

Director (2010)

- Management of service migration team

DC-Hosting Ltd

Director (2008)

- Redesign of network, automated provisioning, billing and crm systems

Netegral Ltd

Technical Director and Co_founder (2004-2006)

- Network design and implementation
- Creation of tools to automate repetitive admin tasks

RBIEX Ltd (Limited by Guarantee Not For Profit)

Financial Director and Co-Founder (2004-2006)

- Negotiating with suppliers for member discounts
- Working with member appointed Management Council for policy setting and organisation steering

International Financial Systems

Product Manager (2000-2004)

- Oversight of the development, support, training departments
- Managed teams of staff in multiple countries/timezones – locally & remotely

Criterion Banking Software

Development Manager (1992-2000)

- Take customer ideas and requirements from concept to delivered service
- Implementation of complex banking systems across 12 countries
- Reporting to board on projects and staff

Software Engineer (1989-1992)

- Developed Future Rate Agreement, Money Market Lending, Forex systems, BSPL Reporting
- Installed regulatory reporting services for Bank of England /S17

Forex Advisory Services Ltd

Programmer (1989)

- Designed and built 1st mass-market touch-screen interface for currency trading

LittleJohn (de Paula) Frazer Whiting

Accounts Assistant (1987)

- Prepared management accounts for sign-off

Frazer Whiting Chartered Accountants

Trainee Auditor (1986)

- Performed external audit preparation

Declaration of Interests:**Question 1**

Are you or is any person connected to you a Director, shareholder, or employee of a company which is:

- A member of Nominet?
- In partnership with Nominet?
- In a Joint Venture with Nominet?

Yes. I am a Director of Astutium Limited an ICANN accredited domain registrar who is also a member of Nominet. None of the companies I represent are known to be partners or JV partners with Nominet at this time.

Question 2

Are you a member of Nominet in your own right?

No. I am not a personal member of Nominet.

Question 3

Have you, or any person connected with you, been a registrant of any .uk or .wales/.cymru domains over the past five years? If so, please provide full details.

Yes. I personally am the registrant of a number of .uk, .wales, .cymru domains for a combination of personal use, use by current businesses, registered for future plans, managed on behalf of friends and family etc.

Question 4

Have you, or any person connected with you, been a Nominet registrar during the past five years. If so, please provide details of all relevant tags, together with the number of domains registered under each tag.

Yes. Currently operational TAGs are OTHELLO and ASTUTIUM.

Previous TAGS/companies include CHORVER, SIMPLYBE and many others.

I am not able to access/discuss numbers of domains per TAG- such detail is available internally to Nominet should it be essential to ascertain, and permission is hereby granted for Nominet to do so.

Question 5

Does any person you are associated with have any of the following relationships with Nominet?

By "associated", we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

- Supplier
- Customer (as registrant or registrar)
- Competitor
- Banking
- Distribution
- Any other ongoing, but material relationship (such as a dispute)

Please provide full details.

Supplier **No**

Customer (as registrant or registrar) **Yes**

Competitor **Yes**

Banking **No**

Distribution **Unknown** (I am not privy to a list of Nominet suppliers)

Rob Golding continued

Any other ongoing, but material relationship (such as a dispute) **No**

As regards competitor Astutum Limited are the intellectual property owners of a number of software tools/applications/systems for the operation of and management of registry and registrar solutions.

However to the best of my knowledge, no company, organisation or individual over which I have any authority is known at this time to be a supplier to/distributor for Nominet, excepting that Astutum are a Nominet member/registrar.

Question 6

Are you associated with any adviser to Nominet?

By “associated”, we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

Examples include:

- Audit
- Tax
- Legal
- Investment banking
- Pensions or investments
- Management consultancy

Please provide full details.

Audit **No**

Tax **No**

Legal **No**

Investment banking **Unknown** (I am not privy to a list of Nominet suppliers)

Pensions or investments **Unknown** (I am not privy to a list of Nominet suppliers)

Management consultancy **Unknown** (I am not privy to a list of Nominet suppliers)

Due to my previous work experiences and family members who continue to work in a variety of consultancy, accountancy, banking, investment, etc, areas I am unable without a list of Nominet’s complete suppliers to say with any degree of certainty that I am not in some way connected.

However to the best of my knowledge, no company, organisation or individual over which I have any authority is known at this time to be a supplier/financial advisor to Nominet.

Question 7

Are you a member of a Committee or a Commission or do you have a material position with a Regulator, any department of Government, a Trade Body, a Professional Body or a Charitable Organisation?

Examples include where the relevant organisation:

- Influences government policy
- Influences accounting standards
- Is preparing industry guidance

Yes. I am an ongoing member/volunteer/participant of ICANN policy development processes which affect all GTLDs, GTLD operators and GTLD registrants.

I regularly take part in industry focus groups, internet governance forums and similar events.

Question 8

Are you associated with an investment organisation of any nature?

By “associated”, we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

Examples include:

- Venture capital/private equity
- Hedge fund
- Investment trust/fund
- An organisation taking material positions in shares or securities

Please provide full details.

Yes. I am an investor/shareholder in a number of companies/groups/organisations, both inside and outside of my pension. However at this time none of the companies in which I have any form of shareholding are known to be in any way connected to Nominet or anyone who invests in Nominet at the size to have a position of influence.

I do not consider, for example, a miniscule shareholding in EDF as part of a managed fund which is part of my pension arrangements to be significant even if EDF were the supplier of electricity to Nominet.

Question 9

Are you in a position that you (or a company you are a director, employee, or material shareholder of) could make a profit as a result of your directorship of Nominet?

No.

Not specifically from the directorship excepting, as regards changes in domain policy/pricing where companies I am involved in would be effected equally as would any other Nominet member.

Question 10

Do you know of any other circumstances that could give rise to a potential or actual conflict of interest or duties?

No.

Election Answers

Question A

Nominet’s constitution provides that its activities are to be carried out for the public benefit. In the context of a domain name registry, what does this mean to you?

I believe Nominet has a responsibility extending beyond simply managing the .uk registry, but to also be active, and involved in, services which compliment it’s role plus other potential applications, where a ‘registry’ is necessary including:

- assisting in securing the DNS at infrastructure level and technology level from internal, external and accidental threats – thus giving security and reliability to both users of .uk and those accessing services on a .uk domain as well as those in the uk using the internet
- protecting (where technically possible, financially feasible and legal) UK internet users from exploitation online
- balancing the rights for privacy with the needs for data by law-enforcement and other groups
- training/outreach to all stakeholder groups on the benefits and pitfalls the internet could be to them
- greater involvement in overall internet governance as well as ICANN, RIPE etc plus the potential IANA transition processes

For there to be public trust and a concrete public benefit, Nominet must act thoroughly transparently, with regular input from the full range of stakeholders, to continue to excel at not only operating the .uk registry but pushing the entire internet eco-system forward with ethical and innovative ideas.

Question B

The Nominet Board places a high degree of importance on each director being able to exercise independent judgement, free from any conflicts of interest. Please describe how you would be able to fulfil your duties in the light of your involvement in the domain name industry or your other commercial interests.

I have always been, and expect to continue to be, strong-willed and opinionated – traits I believe improve my managerial ability. Where I see something as done well – I congratulate, done not so well – I want answers, and not make clear sense – I question.

The many members that know me, know I am outspoken and passionate about many things. However this has never precluded me from listening to an alternative viewpoint, different idea, or a challenge to my worldview. Whilst I will meet things head on, I am not unwilling to change, plus I am equally happy taking the role of 'straw-man' in a meeting, in order to promote clarity and healthy discussion.

Conflict should not necessarily be avoided. An effective board needs to be able to have and resolve conflicts in order to provide effective management and drive the business in the appropriate direction.

Conflict of interest however must be avoided, either by exclusion from the discussion entirely, or by refraining from the voting.

In my work as an Expert Witness I have to deliver an independent judgement which is subject to cross examination and scrutiny, and is based on the evidence uncovered when creating the documentation – there has to remain always that level of transparency, irrespective of who is paying the bills.

Additionally as a director of several companies, and consultant/advisor to others, I am used to being able to switch from representing one organisation to another.

I am prepared for there to be the obvious conflicts of interest between my role as a director of a domain registrar and a director of a domain registry – there will be times when registry needs may not be aligned with registrars in general, or my registrars in particular – if I felt that I could not remain completely objective – remembering that I will be on the board to ensure the benefit is to the wider stakeholder I would immediately bring this to the attention of the board and excuse myself from that particular decision.

I do not expect this to arise as I firmly believe in treating all members equally, so what affects one affects all. Additionally I believe it is in the best interests of the members and Nominet that differing viewpoints are taken on board and discussed – even if a potential conflict means excluding yourself from a vote

Should there be a need for the board to be involved in the selection suppliers where I (or a company I represent) was a potential candidate, then I absolutely would inform the board and be removed from that decision making process – and I would expect/demand that from any of the current and any future board.

Question C

As a non-executive director you will be given access to confidential information about Nominet's business and the commercial dealings which Nominet has with each of its members. In the light of Nominet being a membership organisation, and any member relationships that you may have, please describe how you will comply with your confidentiality obligations, and avoid the perception that one or more members may be given an unfair commercial advantage as the result of your election.

I am already privy to confidential information about a number of Nominet members and their commercial dealings with Nominet. This is through my roles as director of past-and-present tag holders, as a consultant for a number of internet companies, and as a sounding-board for friends within the industry.

This, combined with my job as a Mergers & Acquisitions specialist who buys, sells, documents and handles due-diligence for hosting and domain registration related business means I see the accounts and records of multiple Nominet members every week.

I am used to working within the confines of Non Disclosure Agreements and of keeping information confidential. Knowing what can be said publicly and privately as well as maintaining chain-of-custody of secure documentation is a constant part of my work.

I vow that no information regarding any member that is revealed as my role as Nominet board will go any further than the board – ever.

However, I want to put on record that, as a board member, I will push for and expect Nominet to act transparently and openly, so I will question the legitimacy of anything which could benefit one type of member over another. That private information remains private does not change the need to be clear and accountable so there can be no accusation of impropriety.

Question D

Joining the Nominet Board is a serious commitment both in terms of preparation time and attending meetings. We estimate a minimum annual commitment of 30 days. In the light of your other employment, business and personal commitments, please describe how you are able to meet this commitment.

I am fortunate to have assembled a highly skilled, hand-picked team to manage the companies that I founded. So whilst I retain decision making roles and oversight, I am not necessary to the day-to-day operational running of the companies – they operate equally as well when I am not in the office as when I am.

Whilst I am needed for regular management meetings and fulfilling my directorial duties, I am already afforded the freedom to have time allocatable to other organisations and projects.

Astutium as a domain registrar recognises the need to attend industry events, staff to dedicate time to volunteer work in the industry (such as ICANN processes, eurID meetings etc), as well as the overall benefit derived to the company from being a Nominet member, and also from Nominets' continued expansions.

We have already discussed the time commitment being a Nominet director would require of me, and the team have all agreed that an additional 30+ days per year is possible, with all other business commitments easily able to be fit around Nominet's calendar.

The only exception to this could have been Court dates in my role as an Expert Witness, as these are not determined by the company, however there is (in my experience) always enough flexibility as to the exact day for the giving of evidence by independent experts that there is not expected to be a conflict with scheduled meetings.

I have already questioned the existing board about the frequency of 'unscheduled meetings' at short-notice (only 1 in 5 years) so am confident of being able to dedicate the time to prepare for and attend the board meetings and other Nominet functions.

Volker Greimann

Proposed by: Luc Seuffer EuroDNS

We trust it is time for Nominet's board of directors to increase its diversity and would like to nominate Volker Greimann for a position.

Seconded by: Mr Michele Neylon Blacknight Solutions

We wish to nominate Volker Greimann for the Nominet board elections

Election Statement

As a representative from continental Europe I may not be an obvious candidate for a position as a member-elected non-executive director of Nominet, however I believe that with my experience and outside perspective I would be a valuable addition to the Nominet board. I would therefore be very grateful for your support.

While I am very involved in the ICANN policy making process and model of DNS governance, I am also I am passionate about the ccTLD namespace and .uk which I believe to be an ideal counterbalance to the ICANN model as ccTLD namespaces provide an independent perspective and fulfill an important role as incubator for alternate policy proposals. The ICANN community benefit greatly by reviewing, learning from and adapting policy models and concepts in place in ccTLD namespaces. On the other hand, ICANN policies can also form a model for policies within ccTLDs.

I support the idea that internet policy should flow from the bottom to the top in a self-regulated, consensus based process considering the interests and input of all stakeholders, i.e. users and providers of domain services alike. As member of the GNSO council, the body tasked with managing the policy development process within ICANN, am working towards realizing and maintaining this idea and I believe I can contribute to the management of the policy development discussions within Nominet as well. Especially in an environment of ever growing outside demands on self-policing and enforcement of policy, it is critical to be able to benefit from past experiences and to dare to explore new paths as well.

Ultimately the role of Nominet is to uphold the best interests of all internet users of the .uk namespace, both within and without the UK and I would be protecting those interests on the board of Nominet.

Curriculum Vitae

I am currently General Counsel and authorized signatory at Key-Systems GmbH, an accredited Channel Partner at Nominet. I have been involved with the domain name industry since 2007 when I first joined IS Inter-Services GmbH a shareholder in Key-Systems GmbH where I moved in 2008 to take my current position. Heading up the legal department at Key-Systems, I am directly involved in compliance management, handling of abuse complaints and review of registry policy.

I represent Key-Systems GmbH as its full voting member in the ICANN Registrar Stakeholder Group and represent the Registrar Stakeholder Group as Vice-Chairman and councillor on the GNSO council. I previously served as Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Registrar Stakeholder group. I participate actively in Working Groups in the consensus-based multi-stakeholder policy making process at ICANN.

By trade I am a fully qualified German lawyer, having completed my university studies in 2000 and my vocational training at law in 2005, both with the relevant German state exams. In between both exams I participated in a two-year post-graduate scholarship program of the German Academic Exchange Service in Japan.

I believe that based on my background and experience I will be able to contribute actively as a non-executive director of Nominet.

Declaration of Interests:

Question 1

Are you or is any person connected to you a Director, shareholder, or employee of a company which is:

- A member of Nominet?
- In partnership with Nominet?
- In a Joint Venture with Nominet?

I am an employee of a Nominet Member

Question 2

Are you a member of Nominet in your own right?

No.

Question 3

Have you, or any person connected with you, been a registrant of any .uk or .wales/.cymru domains over the past five years? If so, please provide full details.

No.

Question 4

Have you, or any person connected with you, been a Nominet registrar during the past five years. If so, please provide details of all relevant tags, together with the number of domains registered under each tag.

No.

Question 5

Does any person you are associated with have any of the following relationships with Nominet?

By "associated", we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

- Supplier
- Customer (as registrant or registrar)
- Competitor
- Banking
- Distribution
- Any other ongoing, but material relationship (such as a dispute)

Please provide full details.

My employer, Key-Systems GmbH is an accredited channel partner.

Question 6

Are you associated with any adviser to Nominet?

By "associated", we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

Examples include:

- Audit
- Tax
- Legal
- Investment banking
- Pensions or investments
- Management consultancy

Please provide full details.

No.

Question 7

Are you a member of a Committee or a Commission or do you have a material position with a Regulator, any department of Government, a Trade Body, a Professional Body or a Charitable Organisation?

Examples include where the relevant organisation:

- Influences government policy
- Influences accounting standards
- Is preparing industry guidance

No.

Question 8

Are you associated with an investment organisation of any nature?

By “associated”, we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

Examples include:

- Venture capital/private equity
- Hedge fund
- Investment trust/fund
- An organisation taking material positions in shares or securities

Please provide full details.

No.

Question 9

Are you in a position that you (or a company you are a director, employee, or material shareholder of) could make a profit as a result of your directorship of Nominet?

No.

Question 10

Do you know of any other circumstances that could give rise to a potential or actual conflict of interest or duties?

No.

Election Answers**Question A**

Nominet’s constitution provides that its activities are to be carried out for the public benefit. In the context of a domain name registry, what does this mean to you?

The public benefit in the context of the DNS system means that it must act in the best interest of all stakeholders. Internet users, domain owners, service providers and otherwise affected parties must be considered both in the application of existing policies as well as in the formulation of new rules.

In all this, Nominet needs to be perceived as an independent arbiter of the public interest in the public eye, sufficiently reactive to changing needs and dependably constant when faced with temporary demands. Any changes enacted by Nominet should first and foremost be designed to meet or address an actual need instead of being seen as giving in to outside pressure.

Question B

The Nominet Board places a high degree of importance on each director being able to exercise independent judgement, free from any conflicts of interest. Please describe how you would be able to fulfil your duties in the light of your involvement in the domain name industry or your other commercial interests.

I would not allow commercial interests to influence my judgement. In my experiences as a lawyer, as a vice-chair of the GNSO counsel and a member of the Executive Committee of the Registrar Stakeholder group I am capable of acting on behalf of interests beyond my immediate sphere of interest while still drawing on my experiences and perspectives. In short, I will not allow personal or individual interests to compromise my duties on the Nominet board.

Question C

As a non-executive director you will be given access to confidential information about Nominet’s business and the commercial dealings which Nominet has with each of its members. In the light of Nominet being a membership organisation, and any member relationships that you may have, please describe how you will comply with your confidentiality obligations, and avoid the perception that one or more members may be given an unfair commercial advantage as the result of your election.

Both as a lawyer and as a member of the management board at Key-Systems, I am expected to handle confidential information with utmost care. Neither the confidential information I would receive on the Board nor the content of any non-public discussions will be shared with or made known to any third party. Neither will I use any such information for my personal benefit or that of any third party.

Question D

Joining the Nominet Board is a serious commitment both in terms of preparation time and attending meetings. We estimate a minimum annual commitment of 30 days. In the light of your other employment, business and personal commitments, please describe how you are able to meet this commitment.

I am aware and highly respectful of the time and work expected of a member of the Nominet board. Fortunately, my roles within ICANN as well as with a large .uk registrar mean that a lot of work will overlap between my roles so less time may be required for preparation. I am sufficiently free to contribute time for this role as required.

Phil Kingsland

Proposed by: Alison Curry-Taylor, Daily Internet Services Ltd

I would like to propose Phil Kingsland as a candidate for the Nominet Non-Executive Director Elections.

I have known Phil for the last 5 years and believe him to be a suitable candidate for the Non-Exec Director position on the Nominet Board. He has experience of a range of sectors and brings strong knowledge of the domain industry from his time at Nominet and subsequent projects he has worked on since setting up his own business. In my dealings with Phil I have found him to be empathetic to many different stakeholders and their views, which is especially important given the membership nature of the Nominet business. He listens to reasoned argument, gives thoughtful opinion and brings a breadth and depth of expertise that I feel would help Nominet meet its strategic objectives.

Seconded by: Nick Wood, Com Laude & Valideus

I would like to second Phil Kingsland as a candidate for the Nominet Non-Executive Director Elections.

I have known Phil for several years, both during his time as Director of Marketing and Communications for Nominet and as Director of his own business.

Sometimes there is good reason to resist placing former employees onto a Board. However, I believe that Nominet is such a complex organisation and the environment it is working in is changing so quickly that there is a strong case to be made for a candidate of the calibre of Phil who can bring into the Board room a sense of the history of Nominet, who knows the background to issues and yet can contribute a fresh perspective as a communications specialist with an understanding of SMEs in particular.

I am sure that his skills as a marketing and communications professional who has cut his teeth in the information age are relevant and make him a good candidate for the Non-Exec Director position. He has a very good sense of how the domain industry fits into the wider technology space. I have often met Phil at ICANN and other international internet industry events. We need candidates who have this global experience and exposure before they become Board members.

I have heard Phil speak on the sensitivities of Nominet's guardianship role within the UK domain space and I know that as a small business operator, he is very aware of the commercial issues that Nominet faces and the importance of good government relations. I think he would contribute valuable insights and communications excellence to the Nominet Board as well as an international perspective.

Election Statement

Nominet is a great business. It has grown successfully over the years and continues to perform a critical function for the UK internet infrastructure whilst expanding its business into other areas.

Nominet is also an unusual business, some would say unique. Its role as guardian of the .uk namespace is intricately wrapped up in a public purpose constitution, built on a membership model, with a hard-working and diverse registrar sales channel. Many stakeholders pay keen interest to what Nominet is doing – government, law enforcement, civil society. This leads to many examples of tension, both inside and outside the business.

Guiding such an organization requires care, patience and focus. It is not a task to be undertaken lightly. That's why these elections matter and why I hope you'll take the time to read not just my thoughts, but also those of the other candidates.

What do I bring to the Board?

In my day-to-day work, my approach to businesses and helping them grow is to step into the shoes of their owners, boards, staff, customers and other stakeholders. I help the management teams understand the needs of their customers and the dynamics of the markets they operate in. I question, listen and probe. This leads to a pragmatic business strategy that is clear, focused and deliverable.

I bring a deep understanding of Nominet and the domain industry from my seven years as Director of Marketing and Communications. I have seen the workings of the business from the inside and have paid a keen interest in the development of Nominet since leaving. Running my own business has exposed me to a broad range of businesses facing diverse challenges. I understand the domain business, and yet am not totally tied into it or any one aspect of it. As my work these days is much broader, encompassing manufacturing, retail and other technology companies I am able to help others take a broader view.

Over the years I have worked with many boards, as part of the executive at Nominet and with Axon's plc board before that. I advise my clients' boards and have been on several boards, as director or trustee. I'm currently a director of two businesses. My priority as a non-executive member of the board would be to help steer the business towards long-term success by taking an active role, challenging thinking and helping the executive maintain an external perspective on the business.

Throughout my career I have been fortunate to do something I am passionate about and enjoy – delivering engineering and technology solutions that have a positive impact on our lives. I care about Nominet, and believe that being a non-executive director I'd be able to help it continue to be successful.

As members of Nominet you now have the chance to vote who you want on the Board. I hope you'll consider me as one of your primary choices. If you have any questions for me, please get in touch: phil@resonantstories.com

Curriculum Vitae

PHIL KINGSLAND

phil@resonantstories.com

WORK EXPERIENCE

Resonant Stories Ltd, Founder and CEO

2013 – present

Resonant Stories is a marketing and communications agency that helps technology businesses grow. I work with owners, staff, customers and other stakeholders to understand the challenges a business faces and what really makes the organisation unique. I help them understand the needs of their customers, the dynamics of the markets they operate in and build a work program to apply their resources to help shape the future of the business.

From strategy consulting to full brand development, stakeholder engagement, thought leading PR programs, digital storytelling and full design and content management services, I bring together teams to deliver tailored programs that deliver business results for our clients.

Pierreponts Café Ltd, Director

2015 – present

Pierreponts is a small independent café, of which I have recently become a co-owner. The intention is to gradually develop what is already a successful business, to serve great fresh, locally produced food in a warm inviting environment. I have responsibility for the business planning, growth and financial management of the business.

Nominet UK Ltd, Director of Marketing and Communications

2006 – 2013

At Nominet I was responsible for developing and implementing the marketing and communications strategy; raising the profile and developing

the brand of .uk; and defining Nominet's position in the global Internet industry. Working with the Chief Executive, Board and senior management team I helped setting the business vision and strategic priorities. I was responsible for creation of the marketing and communications strategy. I was responsible for all aspects of marketing and communications, including PR, promotional campaigns, digital marketing, advertising, events, channel management and member engagement.

I led the creation and development of Knowthenet, an educational initiative providing information and advice to help individuals and businesses stay safe and informed whilst getting the most out of the internet. I was also responsible for bringing the management of the W3C UK and Ireland office to Nominet as part of its mission to help ensure the on-going stability of the internet and the long-term growth of the web.

The Mulberry Centre, Trustee **2004 – 2005**

The Mulberry Centre is a cancer information and complementary therapy centre. Responsibilities included: Oversight of the transition from Hospital ownership to independent charity and guiding the development strategy for the charity.

Axon Group plc (now HCL Axon), Head of Marketing and Campaign Manager **1998 – 2006**

I led the marketing function of global management and IT consultancy Axon, during a period of growth from £10m – £200m turnover. I owned, developed, and delivered the marketing and brand strategy to support growth from 80 – 1,000 employees.

3D Scanners Ltd (now Nikon Metrology), Sales and Marketing Manager **1994 – 1998**

I built and developed the sales and marketing strategy and capability for 3D Scanners, the leading non-contact measuring company.

Renishaw plc, Product Marketing Engineer and Undergraduate Engineer **1987 – 1994**

EDUCATION

University of Birmingham, Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing and Management, M.Eng & Man, **1992**

Declaration of Interests:

Question 1

Are you or is any person connected to you a Director, shareholder, or employee of a company which is:

- A member of Nominet?
- In partnership with Nominet?
- In a Joint Venture with Nominet?

Yes, I supply marketing services on an ad-hoc basis to some Nominet members.

Question 2

Are you a member of Nominet in your own right?

No.

Question 3

Have you, or any person connected with you, been a registrant of any .uk or .wales/.cymru domains over the past five years? If so, please provide full details.

Yes, I have registered approx. 20 .uk domains for personal and business use.

Question 4

Have you, or any person connected with you, been a Nominet registrar during the past five years. If so, please provide details of all relevant tags, together with the number of domains registered under each tag.

Yes, in my own business I have supplied ad-hoc marketing services to registrars including Nom-IQ (ca. 6,000 domains) and Host Europe Group (ca. 2.4m domains)

During my time as Director of Marketing and Communications for Nominet I have communicated and worked with all Nominet registrars.

Question 5

Does any person you are associated with have any of the following relationships with Nominet?

By "associated", we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

- Supplier
- Customer (as registrant or registrar)
- Competitor
- Banking
- Distribution
- Any other ongoing, but material relationship (such as a dispute)

Please provide full details.

Yes, as follows:

Architelos, for whom I provide ad-hoc marketing consultancy services to their clients are both, at times, a supplier and competitor to Nominet.

I supply ad-hoc marketing consultancy services to some Nominet registrars including Host Europe Group and Nom-IQ.

I have supplied ad-hoc marketing consultancy services to a small Nominet competitor, co.com.

I was Nominet's Director of Marketing and Communications for 7 years up to October 2013. My business, Resonant Stories supplied marketing consultancy services to Nominet directly as I transitioned out of my role and in support of incoming Chief Commercial Officer. Resonant Stories has not supplied Nominet any services over the last year.

Question 6

Are you associated with any adviser to Nominet?

By "associated", we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

Examples include:

- Audit
- Tax
- Legal
- Investment banking
- Pensions or investments
- Management consultancy

Please provide full details.

Yes. I am a service provider to Architelos, a consulting firm who also occasionally carry out projects for Nominet.

Phil Kingsland continued

Question 7

Are you a member of a Committee or a Commission or do you have a material position with a Regulator, any department of Government, a Trade Body, a Professional Body or a Charitable Organisation?

Examples include where the relevant organisation:

- Influences government policy
- Influences accounting standards
- Is preparing industry guidance

No.

Question 8

Are you associated with an investment organisation of any nature?

By “associated”, we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

Examples include:

- Venture capital/private equity
- Hedge fund
- Investment trust/fund
- An organisation taking material positions in shares or securities

Please provide full details.

No.

Question 9

Are you in a position that you (or a company you are a director, employee, or material shareholder of) could make a profit as a result of your directorship of Nominet?

Beyond the associated Non-Executive Director Fee, no.

Question 10

Do you know of any other circumstances that could give rise to a potential or actual conflict of interest or duties?

No.

Election Answers

Question A

Nominet’s constitution provides that its activities are to be carried out for the public benefit. In the context of a domain name registry, what does this mean to you?

Public benefit lies at the core of all that Nominet does. Over the years that Nominet has grown, it has become an increasingly important piece of the UK’s critical infrastructure. If Nominet were to fail in its core function of maintaining the .uk infrastructure, the public would find it difficult to access information, UK businesses would lose money, government services would be hard to access and people who rely on the .uk namespace as part of their lives would have difficulties.

So the foundation of Nominet’s public benefit activities is to ensure the smooth, stable and secure operation of the .uk namespace. To achieve this Nominet invests considerable resources into excellent technology, systems, people and processes. Continued investment in and regular testing of all aspects of the .uk namespace management is vital.

As the business diversifies it must do so with the underlying principle of public benefit. There are many aspects to this. Other domain registries such as .wales and .cymru will become part of the key infrastructure of the audiences they serve.

The work of the research and development team has focused on this and helped deliver some important steps forward in maintaining the security of the global DNS. Other public benefit activities include initiatives such as the Nominet Trust, and Knowthenet. As further products and services are explored as part of Nominet’s diversification plans, they too will need to be developed with a clear public benefit in mind.

The public benefit statement helps provide a sound and principled backdrop to how Nominet operates and develops. It ensures the Board take a long-term view and take a balanced approach to running a prudent and fiscally responsible, growing business for the long-term.

Question B

The Nominet Board places a high degree of importance on each director being able to exercise independent judgement, free from any conflicts of interest. Please describe how you would be able to fulfil your duties in the light of your involvement in the domain name industry or your other commercial interests.

I am not a shareholder or Board member of any Nominet member. I am an independent business owner and able to exercise independent judgement, free from any conflicts of interest. I do advise businesses in the sector, that advice is built on the skills and experience I have as a technology marketing and communications professional and applies across sectors.

The director of any company has a primary responsibility to act in the best interests of the company. They are not there to represent any group, individual or business. When working with a range of businesses within the same sector there are bound to be times when business imperatives both align and differ, leading to some clear conflicts of interest. It is therefore inevitable that with member-elected non-executive directors there will be some conflicts of interest, but that industry knowledge and experience brings insight that helps the Board in its oversight role. It is important to be able to recognise these and their potential impact.

Those of you who know and have worked with me, will know that I am a principled individual who takes every care to act in the best interests of the business for which I am operating. I recognise that in the role of non-executive director of Nominet there may be times when the work I am doing with some of my clients presents conflicts of interests. That being said, there are not many instances where there is actual crossover of work with my current clients and the activities of Nominet. If there is a potential conflict of interest with any other aspect of my work I will recuse myself from such board discussions and votes.

I believe I can be an effective member of the Board of the Board and am fully able to exercise independent judgement.

Question C

As a non-executive director you will be given access to confidential information about Nominet's business and the commercial dealings which Nominet has with each of its members. In the light of Nominet being a membership organisation, and any member relationships that you may have, please describe how you will comply with your confidentiality obligations, and avoid the perception that one or more members may be given an unfair commercial advantage as the result of your election.

I have worked for a range of companies large and small where confidential information is core to the business and my role within it. I have been involved in the development of new products, patent applications, trademark actions and new product launches, all of which require confidential operations to ensure their success. I treat all confidential information exactly as that. I have worked within Nominet for 7 years and treated all material sensitively.

I have clients where sensitive info must be kept safe to ensure competitive advantage.

There will be times when I am in possession of confidential information within the non-executive director role. However, I will treat this information as such and am free to act independently and unencumbered in this role.

Question D

Joining the Nominet Board is a serious commitment both in terms of preparation time and attending meetings. We estimate a minimum annual commitment of 30 days. In the light of your other employment, business and personal commitments, please describe how you are able to meet this commitment.

I am very able to meet the commitment of this role. I run my own businesses and determine my own timetable. I deliver projects independently, working under timescales that meet the needs of my clients and my schedule.

The level of commitment for this role is clear and having worked with the Nominet Board over the years I understand how much effort is required to play an engaged and committed role on the Board. There is much to be done to continue the success of Nominet and I'm prepared to put in the required effort, both within the Board and with the membership.

I have a busy life with a healthy level of commitments and that's how I choose to live my life. I am able to prioritise and achieve the goals I have for me and the businesses I work with and that extends to making a success of Nominet.

David Thornton

Proposed by: Andrew Bennett, Netistrar Ltd

David calls himself the 'Domain Name Aficionado' a phrase which suits him well. His technical knowledge of the domain name industry would put many other candidates to shame.

I first met David around a decade ago on various online fora and at Nominet members meetings. In recent years David has become increasingly active in Nominet through policy consultations, the Nominet Forum and industry events.

He is very inquisitive in nature and always wants a straight answer. During the week he will ring me several times asking questions on behalf of his clients:

"How much is a Donuts AAAA rated name with EAP?"

"Have you got a premium list for .apartments?"

"Why was this .wales not on the last premium list?"

"What is the list of .London collision names?"

"How did North Sound Names register all those .flowers?"

And that was just this week alone...

The industry is changing so quickly and is so complex now you have to be on the ball like David. Nominet needs someone who can keep up with the pace of change but also remembers the past.

If you want a board member that is honest, transparent and knowledgeable vote for David Thornton!

Seconded by: Tom McFarlane, MCFARLANE

I would like to second David Thornton for the role of non-executive director of Nominet. I have known David Thornton since 1995 in both a personal and professional capacity and since the start he has always had an interest in technology and the Internet, with a forward thinking open mind about the future technology landscape ahead. I have worked with him on several software projects such as the design and implementation of a custom solution for distribution DNS zone files as well as several domain name registration and management solutions. I also worked with him when he worked for Thornton Ltd, running a small ISP. I consider he is of good character and is very knowledgeable in the domain name sphere and would be an asset as a non executive director at Nominet.

Election Statement

Nominet is a first class registry and I wish to see it maintain this status within a rapidly changing industry and an ever competitive registry market. Nominet should remain at the forefront of the industry and should consider expansion into other relevant registry operations, perhaps involving big data and DNS security. Nominet has already developed new gTLD backend technology and should consider expanding on this in any second round of new extensions.

The .uk name space should remain a trusted brand through continued membership driven self regulation, yet should still ensure it listens to the wider internet community. Nominet has difficult policy decisions to make when attempting to satisfy Government and law enforcement interests but it should balance their views against the needs of the public.

Since 2002 I have predominantly worked in the domain name industry and earned income from business activities directly attributed to domain names. I continue to follow new developments in naming and online identity with a specific interest in creative use of social media usernames and new gTLDs.

I am passionate about domain names, particularly ones that I consider to be attractive and category leading. I have contributed significant time to several online domain name communities and have a good technical understanding of how DNS works as well as the structures of the registrant/registrar/registry model.

Between 2003 and 2009 I attended Nominet lunches in various cities along the south coast which I found useful because doing so enabled me to engage with other Nominet members in an informal and relaxed capacity. I hope to see events like these returning sometime in the future. I have also attended three Nominet AGMs. In 2014 I attended ICANN 50 in London and have made firm plans to attend ICANN 53 in Buenos Aires later this year. I am fully committed to working in the domain name industry for many years to come.

In September 2012 I was one of four persons asked to present my thoughts to the room about what was originally known as direct.uk during the Nominet Registrar Conference. I was opposed the original proposal and at the time also opposed the opening up of second level .uk. Subsequently I contributed my views towards a more viable proposal and now wish to see the new second level extension become successful. I hope to see increased awareness of shorter .uk domain names and support ideas to further promote all the .uk extensions.

Today I maintain a high level of interest in Nominet policy developments and consultations. The forthcoming Membership, DRS and WHOIS privacy reviews have areas that are potentially contentious and will require a significant input from all stakeholders. As someone that is in contact with registrars and registrants on a daily basis I will be in an ideal position to help gather a wide range of feedback to identify issues.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me via email david@thornton.uk.

Curriculum Vitae

Name: David Thornton
Contact: david@thornton.uk
Age: 36
Nationality: British National

Personal Statement

I have great awareness of current technologies and trends, often finding myself trying out new online services and thinking about how technology will drive change. I have a passion for domain names and the industry as a whole.

Relevant Experience

My current work involves the management of domain names for a small of number registrants and also to provide advice on domain name strategies including acquisition, management and future expansion.

I have bought and sold domain names on what is commonly referred to as the secondary market and have experience in dealing with numerous registrants of all sizes and backgrounds.

Current Roles

Name Account Inc (Director 2005 – Present), strategy advice and UK based representative.

Past Roles

network services. Former LoNAP member (as Thornton Ltd).

Formidavel Ltd (Director 2010 – 2014), domain name registration and management.

Search Starts Here Ltd (Director 2003 – 2011), specialised in monetisation of Direct Navigation web traffic.

Search Defined Ltd (Director 2005 – 2011), search marketing and affiliate marketing.

Metropolitan Police (Station Officer, Kingston Upon Thames, 2002-2003).

University of Plymouth (IT Support 2000 – 2001).

Education

BSc (Hons) Computing – Information Technology & Society, University of Portsmouth.

11 GCSE (1995) and 3 A-Levels (1997), Devonport High School for Boys, Plymouth.

Declaration of Interests:

Question 1

Are you or is any person connected to you a Director, shareholder, or employee of a company which is:

- A member of Nominet?
- In partnership with Nominet?
- In a Joint Venture with Nominet?

No.

Question 2

Are you a member of Nominet in your own right?

Yes.

Question 3

Have you, or any person connected with you, been a registrant of any .uk or .wales/.cymru domains over the past five years? If so, please provide full details.

Yes. I have a small number of *.uk domain names in my own name. I am a director of Name Account Inc. which is a registrant of under 1000 *.uk domain names.

Question 4

Have you, or any person connected with you, been a Nominet registrar during the past five years. If so, please provide details of all relevant tags, together with the number of domains registered under each tag.

Recently became Nominet registrar in my own right. Tag: DAVIDTHORNTON – less than 10 domain names. Currently in the process of taking over domain name management of domain names on THORNTON tag from Formidavel Ltd (less than 1500) and DTHORNTON tags (0 on tag).

Question 5

Does any person you are associated with have any of the following relationships with Nominet?

By “associated”, we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

- Supplier
- Customer (as registrant or registrar)
- Competitor
- Banking
- Distribution
- Any other ongoing, but material relationship (such as a dispute)

Please provide full details.

Name Account Inc. is a customer (registrant) of under 1000 *.uk domain names.

Question 6

Are you associated with any adviser to Nominet?

By “associated”, we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

Examples include:

- Audit
- Tax
- Legal
- Investment banking
- Pensions or investments
- Management consultancy

Please provide full details.

No.

Question 7

Are you a member of a Committee or a Commission or do you have a material position with a Regulator, any department of Government, a Trade Body, a Professional Body or a Charitable Organisation?

Examples include where the relevant organisation:

- Influences government policy
- Influences accounting standards
- Is preparing industry guidance

No.

Question 8

Are you associated with an investment organisation of any nature?

By “associated”, we mean to include any formal or informal contractual and/or advisory relationships.

Examples include:

- Venture capital/private equity
- Hedge fund
- Investment trust/fund
- An organisation taking material positions in shares or securities

Please provide full details.

No.

Question 9

Are you in a position that you (or a company you are a director, employee, or material shareholder of) could make a profit as a result of your directorship of Nominet?

Not that I can think of. I don't believe me being a director would cause me or any other connected entity to directly profit.

Question 10

Do you know of any other circumstances that could give rise to a potential or actual conflict of interest or duties?

Not that I am aware.

David Thornton continued

Election Answers

Question A

Nominet's constitution provides that its activities are to be carried out for the public benefit. In the context of a domain name registry, what does this mean to you?

Decisions that the Nominet Board make should be made in the context of supporting the public benefit, not just the interests of specific groups. The registry should represent the wider stakeholder community and currently does a very good job of doing this.

Question B

The Nominet Board places a high degree of importance on each director being able to exercise independent judgement, free from any conflicts of interest. Please describe how you would be able to fulfil your duties in the light of your involvement in the domain name industry or your other commercial interests.

My only commercial interests are the domain names that I manage on behalf of a small number of registrants. If I felt that I may have conflict of interest I would declare it and remove myself from discussions as considered appropriate. I have completed the new declaration of interests form supplied.

Question C

As a non-executive director you will be given access to confidential information about Nominet's business and the commercial dealings which Nominet has with each of its members. In the light of Nominet being a membership organisation, and any member relationships that you may have, please describe how you will comply with your confidentiality obligations, and avoid the perception that one or more members may be given an unfair commercial advantage as the result of your election.

My time working for the Metropolitan Police taught me the importance of confidentiality. I have no formal relationships with other Nominet members, aside from sometimes being their customer.

Question D

Joining the Nominet Board is a serious commitment both in terms of preparation time and attending meetings. We estimate a minimum annual commitment of 30 days. In the light of your other employment, business and personal commitments, please describe how you are able to meet this commitment.

I work for myself and can usually organise my diary as required. I currently have no major commitments and have the time to fulfil the role. I am committed to the idea of being elected for the next three years.

www.nominet.org.uk

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