

Angus Hanton

Email:

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12/1450

request-133205-c1d5950f@whatdotheyknow.com

12/1451

Ref No: 12/1450 & 12/1451

6 November 2012

Dear Mr Hanton

I refer to your email of 12 October where you asked about discussions BIS has had with Nominet during 2012 about opening up the .uk namespace (FOI 12/1450). You also enquired about discussions BIS has had this year with others about opening up the .uk namespace.

In a separate email of 13 October you requested information about how ownership and responsibility for the namespace .uk was transferred from the government to Nominet, and any correspondence relating to that transfer (FOI 12/1451).

This reply covers the BIS response to both FOI requests.

With regard to your request dated 12 October (12/1450), I have interpreted this as being related to the current consultation being conducted by Nominet about their proposals for a new service Direct.uk. I can confirm that prior to the formal launch of the consultation Nominet came into brief BIS officials, particularly about the security-related features of the proposed new service. This was done out of courtesy. BIS have not had discussions about this with anybody outside of the Department.

With regard to your request dated 13 October (12/1451), as you know the Department for Culture, Media and Sport now leads on the policy in this area but as far as I can tell there was no transfer of responsibility for the .uk Internet domain from the government to Nominet. It would appear responsibility for the domain was never in the government's hands. Certainly I can find no records held in BIS that would suggest otherwise.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The

Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's
Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future
communications.

Yours sincerely,

Information Economy directorate
Shareholder Executive