Dear Mr Bezant,

Thank you for your correspondence of 1st November in which you made the following request for information:

Your department recently announced a consultation on ‘UK-related domain names powers’ (1). I note the consultation proposes to enact sections 19-21 of the Digital Economy act from 2010 (2)

Please provide ALL correspondence regarding this consultation between your department and the .uk registry Nominet UK (03203859) prior to 20th July 2023.

Please include all emails (corporate and personal email) and all notes, minutes, ministerial briefings.

We are processing your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”).

We are writing to inform you that DSIT holds the information you requested but after careful consideration, we have decided that the information may be exempt from disclosure under Section 35(a) of the Act, which pertains to the formulation of government policy.

As section 35 is a qualified exemption, it is necessary to carry out a public interest test to consider whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
By virtue of **Section 10(3)** of the Act, where public authorities must carry out a public interest test, they can extend the deadline to consider this balance. Therefore, we feel that to make the most appropriate and balanced decision, we must extend the deadline as we are unable to respond to your request immediately. However, we hope to let you have a substantive response to your request by **27th December 2023.**

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team  
**Department for Science, Innovation and Technology**

**Complaints and comments**

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of our response to your request for information, and/or wish to appeal against information being withheld from you, please reply to this letter with the full details within two calendar months of the date of this response. You have the right to ask the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. Please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning an investigation.