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, and we acknowledge that the deadline was previously extended for this request as we decided that the information may be exempt from disclosure under Section 35(a) of the Act, which pertains to the formulation of government policy. After careful consideration, we have decided that the information may also be exempt from disclosure under Section 27(1)(a) of the Act, which pertains to relations between the United Kingdom and any other State and Section 27(1)(b) which pertains to relations between the United Kingdom and any international organisation or international court.
As section 27 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 31st January 2024.

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.