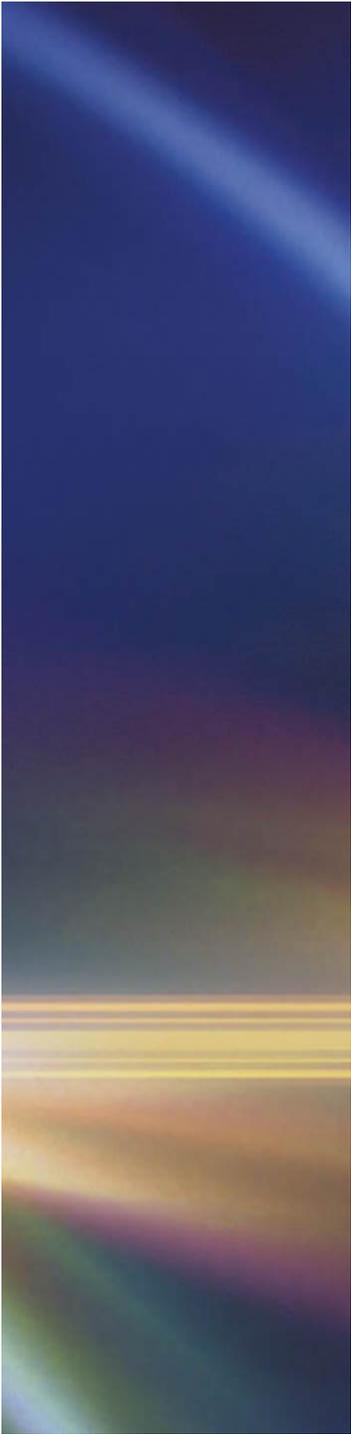


# **.uk Public Policy Partnership**

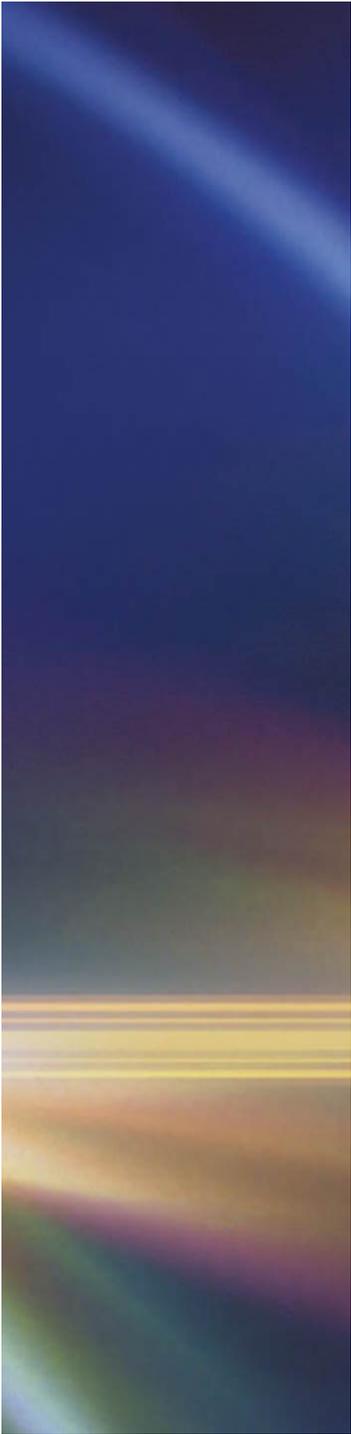
Emily Taylor - Director of Legal and Policy,  
Nominet UK

Geneva, 26 September 2005



## Background

- Private sector registry
- No formal agreement between UK Government and Nominet
- No domain name legislation, no sector regulation



## Nominet, the basics

- Not for profit company, limited by guarantee
- Liberal domain name policy (over 4.3 million names)
- Strong registrar competition (over 3,700 registrars)
- Mission – to act in the interests of the Local Internet Community, responding to stakeholder requirements
- Active participation of multi-stakeholders (Policy Advisory Board)

Government

Registry

### Key issues

Decisions in line with UK law and supported by UK stakeholders

Stay in the root!  
Transparency,  
Operational efficiency

The Root/  
IANA  
services

UK to be the best environment to do e-business

Competition at registrar and registry level

Competitive environment

Be confident of stable environment for UK e-business  
Ability of community to ensure continuity

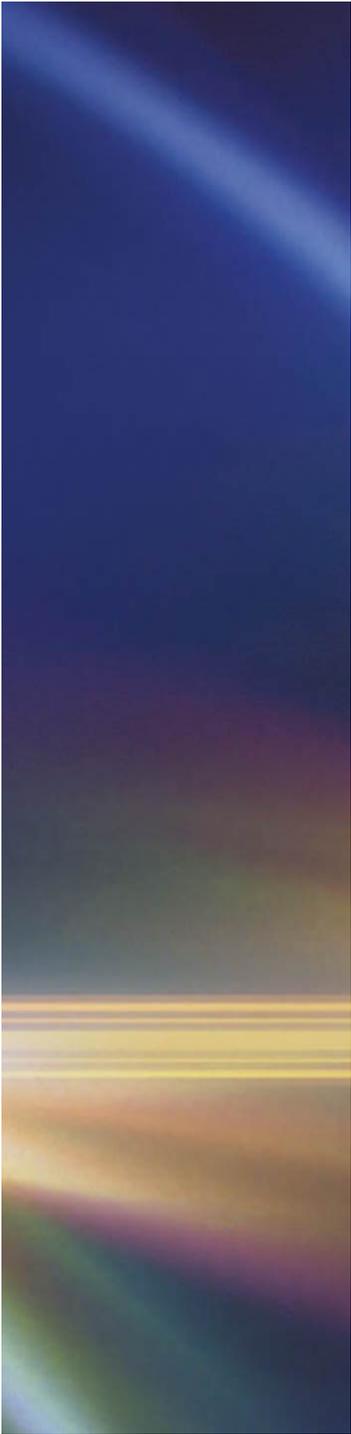
Serve our customers  
Stay in business  
Be efficient  
Keep up with technical developments

Business & technical continuity

Ensure that the industry is running policies that serve the community

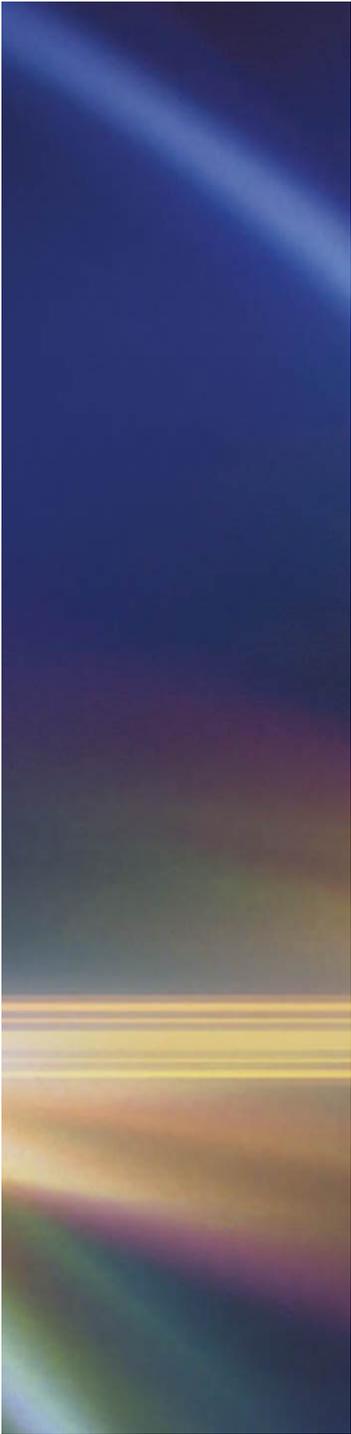
Be a good citizen  
Promote best practice  
Ensure our policies meet the community needs

Industry self-regulation



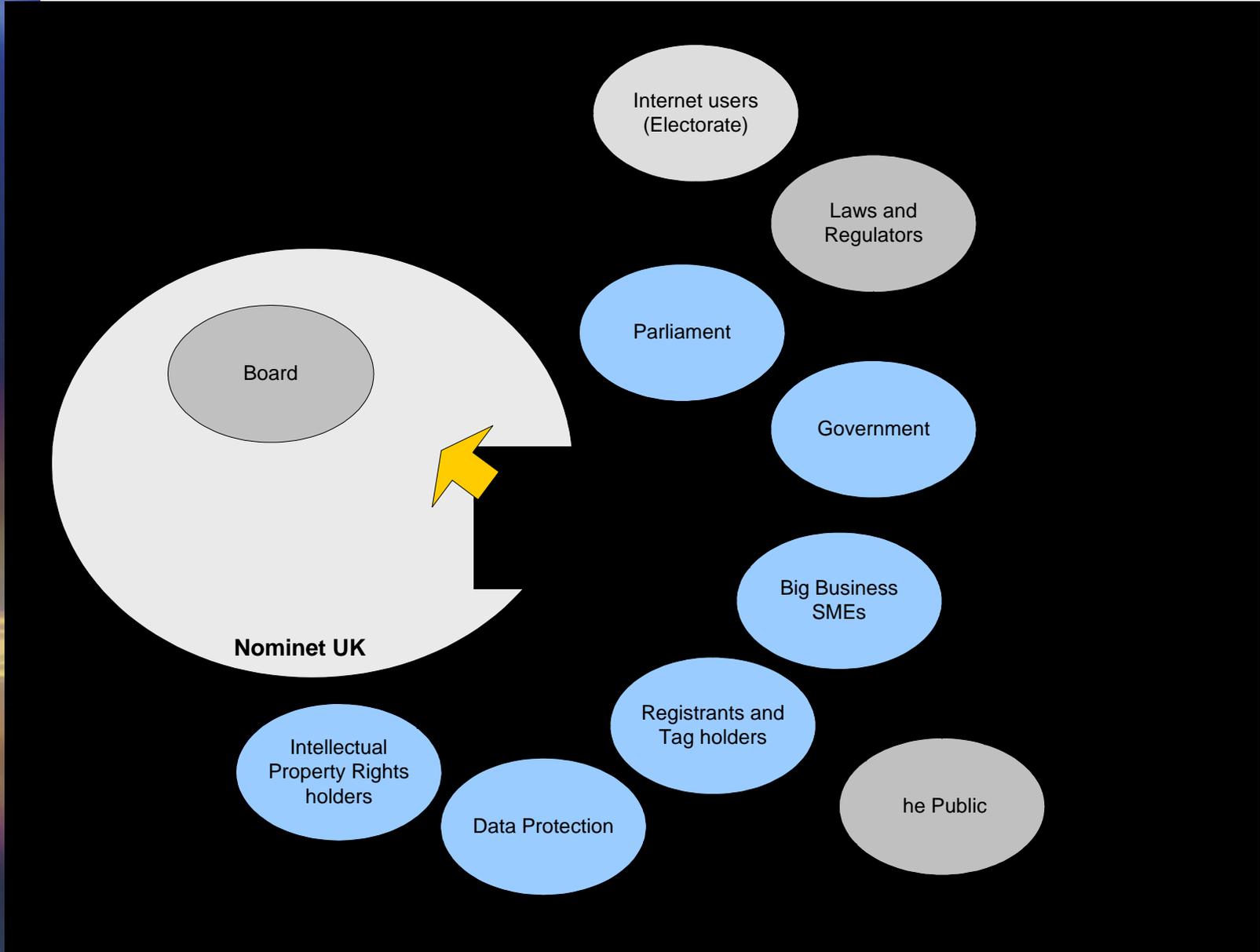
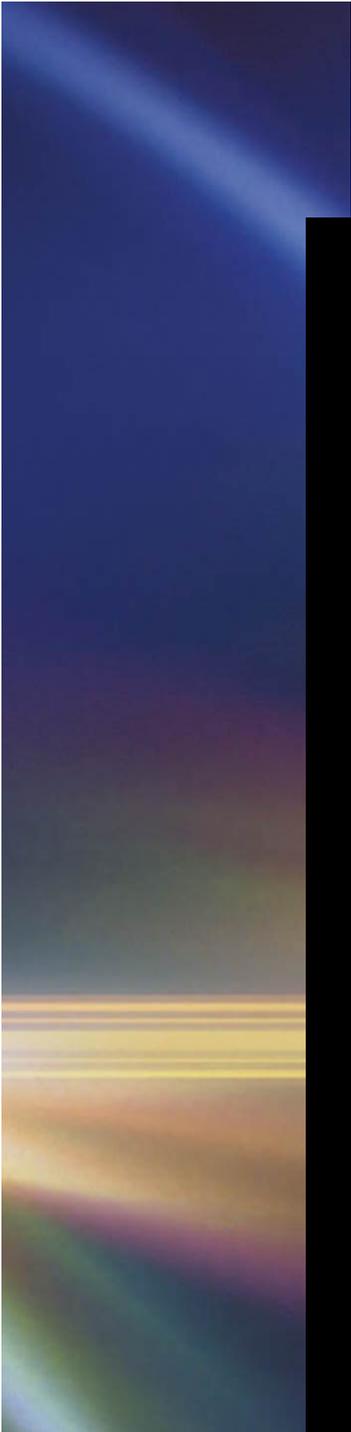
## **Business and technical continuity**

- Automation, robustness, redundancy
- Continuous investment in infrastructure
- Key performance indicators based on 100% availability of services
- Healthy retained surplus
- Likely reaction of membership if decline or poor management
- Insurance and risk management



## Benefits of self-regulation

- Direct dialogue with stakeholders
- Balancing conflicting viewpoints
- Open, public consultations on policy issues
- Policy Advisory Board within Nominet's corporate structure



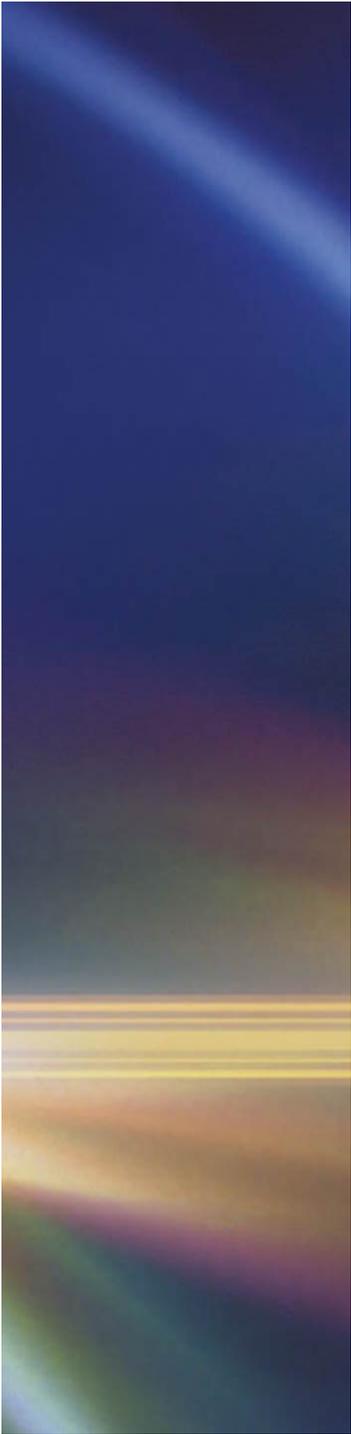
- “[need for] an organisation willing to run the UK Internet Naming Service in a manner that guaranteed high quality service levels”
- “... dependent upon the support of interested parties forming the British Internet industry”
- “... legitimacy ... because of the openness and transparency of the process associated with its establishment and the type of organisational structure”
- “... incorporating the interests of a multitude of actors ... in a manner that prevented any particular group of interests from exerting undue influence...”
- “The actors who participated in the registry formation process were able to define ... the constraints that would be placed on their domain name registration activities”
- “... virtually no government involvement in the registry formation process”

(From: *Internet Governance in Transition*, Daniel J Paré, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2003)

- The UK as one of the best places in the world for on-line business
- World-class Infrastructure
- Competitive environment
- The “good citizen” role of industry self-regulation
  - Subject to EU and national laws (data protection, fair trading, consumer protection, competition law): on-line as off-line
  - Responsive to concerns

- No ccTLD-specific regulation
- No formal DTI-Nominet agreement
- Industry self-coordination
  - Focussed on sector needs
  - Responsive to changing demands
  - No competing priorities
  - Can invest for the future
- A small but important strategic resource
  - Nominet turnover:                    £ 12 mn
  - ISPs' turnover                        > £ 1 bn
  - eCommerce in the UK            > £ 40 bn

- Advisory
  - Does not take away company's responsibility
  - But does help company understand issues and concerns
  
- Forum for discussion
  - Balance concerns
  - Changing environment
  
- Helps Nominet behave as a “good citizen”



## Conclusions: Characteristics of the *.uk* model

- Industry self-regulation works well in fast-changing environment
- Benefits of local solutions to match needs of local stakeholders
- Responsible registries, responsive to all stakeholder needs, not only the industry.
- Off-line laws apply
- *.uk*: a successful model of informal, co-operative partnership between private sector and government