

Rules for the release of domain names at the second level in .uk

Definitions

Contention Right Holder means as between different holders of domains in an Eligible Second Level Registry as at Cut Off the co.uk registrant; if there was no co.uk registrant at Cut Off then the Contention Right Holder means the org.uk registrant; if there was no co.uk registrant and no org.uk registrant at Cut Off then the Contention Right Holder means the me.uk registrant. There are no Strings registered in more than one Eligible Second Level Registry where the co.uk, org.uk or me.uk domain was not registered at Cut Off.

Cut Off means 23:59 GMT on 28 October 2013.

Eligible Second Level Registry means one of the following second level registries managed by Nominet: co.uk, org.uk, me.uk, net.uk, ltd.uk and plc.uk.

Excluded Domains means the second level domains which will not be generally available for registration. These domains have been provisionally agreed with the UK's Government Digital Service and have been reserved for organisations which will no longer be able to use the gov.uk domain as a result of reorganisation of the gov.uk name space. A list of the Excluded Domains is set out in the attached Appendix 1.

Launch Date means 10 June 2014.

Qualifying Domain means (i) a domain name which as at Cut Off was the only String in an Eligible Second Level Registry; and (ii) where there is more than one String in an Eligible Second Level Registry the Contention Right Holder; and (iii) where there is not already a Qualifying Domain as at the Launch Date, any new co.uk domain registered between Cut Off and Launch Date.

Reservation Period means the five year period commencing on the Launch Date.

Rules means the updated general Rules of Registration and Use of Domain Names which explain which domain names can be registered and which cannot. A copy of the Rules applicable from Launch Date is provided as Appendix 2.

String means an alphanumeric character set capable of being registered as a domain name with Nominet within the Rules.

1. From the Launch Date, any person will be able to apply to register a domain name at the second level in .uk, provided:
 - a. The second level domain is not one of the small number of existing second level domains (for example co.uk, org.uk, gov.uk, parliament.uk and britishlibrary.uk); and
 - b. Their application complies with the Rules; and
 - c. The domain name for which they apply is not an Excluded Domain; and
 - d. The String applied for is not identical to the String at the third level of a Qualifying Domain.

2. Provided that that the Qualifying Domain remains registered at the point of application, and subject to paragraph 1 (a) –(c) above, holders of Qualifying Domains will be able to apply to register the equivalent String at the second level during the Reservation Period. The right to apply for the equivalent String at the second level during the Reservation Period shall transfer automatically to the new registrant of a Qualifying Domain upon a change in registrant.
3. Nominet reserves the right to reject any application request for a second level domain which does not comply with the Rules. However following an unsuccessful application the holder of a Qualifying Domain may make a new application for the equivalent String at the second level throughout the Reservation Period.
4. At the end of the Reservation Period, the restrictions on registration for Strings which are identical to those of Excluded Domains and Qualifying Domains will cease.
5. Nominet reserves the right to suspend or extend the Reservation Period in circumstances where a Qualifying Domain is subject of a Dispute Resolution Service complaint, legal dispute or other compliance process as regards the registration.

APPENDIX 1

EXCLUDED DOMAINS

auditcommission.uk
audit-commission.uk
cpni.uk
cesg.uk
crownprosecutionservice.uk
crownprosecution.uk
dartmoor-npa.uk
drinkingwater-inspectorate.uk
drugdrive-campaign.uk
exmoor-npa.uk
forestry-commission.uk
foodstandardsagency.uk
forestrycommission.uk
governmentartcollection.uk
gchq.uk
healthsafetylab.uk
healthsafetyexec.uk
hminspectorates.uk
hmi-constabulary.uk
hmcpsi.uk
hmi-prisons.uk
hmi-probation.uk
humantissueauthority.uk
independentmonitoring-board.uk
ipcc.uk
informationcommissioner.uk
jncc.uk
lakedistrict-npa.uk
nationalcrimeagency.uk
naturalresourceswales.uk
newforest-npa.uk
ntaia.uk
nucleardecommissioning.uk
nationalstatistics.uk
railregulation.uk
officenationalstatistics.uk
ofgem.uk
ofwat.uk
ons.uk
planningportal.uk
prisonsprobationombudsman.uk
mi6.uk
mi5.uk
seriousfraudoffice.uk
adjudicatorsoffice.uk
ukho.uk
uksport.uk

Second Level Domain Registration: Excluded Names Policy

Background

Nominet's consultation on allowing second level domain registrations (SLDR) launched on 1 July 2013 outlined our view that the reservation of domain names should be kept to a minimum in line with existing policy. This reflected our position that an open registration policy has underpinned the success of the .uk namespace. We also highlighted a concern that a more restrictive policy, such as adopting a list of sensitive names or expressions as restricted by Companies House would be prohibitive and not in keeping with .uk domain name policy to date. There was also the likelihood that such a restrictive policy could penalise legitimate .co.uk registrants seeking to register a matching second level domain.

We did consult on a minor modification to this general approach of open registration, seeking views on our proposal that public bodies being moved off the .gov.uk space as part of the Government's Digital Transformation Programme should have the matching domain string of their .gov.uk domain reserved for them at the second level. Given their previous reliance on a .gov.uk domain, some of these bodies would be left without a meaningful .uk domain that reflects their status and visibly communicates what they do. We therefore proposed that this small modification to the open registration policy would be in the public interest, and that it presented a reasonable and proportionate approach with minimal impact on the balance of the register and existing registrants.

Our consultation outlined that for a .gov.uk domain to qualify for a reserved second level domain, it would need to be in existence as at 1st July 2013. At the time of publication, we understood that this programme would affect approximately 150 public bodies. The Government's response to our consultation highlighted 69 bodies that they felt would require a domain reserved for their use. This list highlighted that a number of bodies (twelve) had already registered a .co.uk domain and therefore would have a right of refusal for the matching second level domain. It has also highlighted that the proposal that the public body be allocated a matching domain name string is not straightforward to implement in all cases, given that some of these bodies do not have a specific third level domain in .gov.uk, but are at the fourth level or currently represented by a webpage on a central Government website.

In our announcement of our decision on SLDR, we noted that feedback indicated some confusion or suspicion about our motives for creating such a reserved list as a result of the Government's Digital Transformation Programme. We also noted that in the absence of SLDR, we could be approached by such bodies with requests to create bespoke second level domains and had received such requests from the Supreme Court and the Royal Household.

Following our announcement, we have continued to engage with Government Digital Service to finalise a definitive list of reserved names. In doing so we have adopted a number of principles against which these reserved domains have been allocated. These are:

1. No obvious generics

Consultation responses highlighted concerns about reserving generic terms such as ‘food’ or ‘independent’ as part of this process. Recognising the merits of that argument, we have sought to avoid the reservation of obviously generic terms.

We noted that the use of an obvious generic name in the absence of the .gov.uk second level domain space that signals the public nature of the organisation, would make it more difficult for the public to ascertain the purpose of the domain name. We also noted that the Government’s Naming Principles outlines principles to ensure that a domain name “helps people to get what they expect when they type an address into a browser”. In light of the consultation feedback and this expectation, our view is that the public is unlikely to expect, for example, to arrive at the domain for the Food Standards Agency, when typing in food.uk, but is more likely to expect to find a domain name for a website about food or recipes and the like.

2. Balancing contention with description of the domain’s primary purpose

Our consultation highlighted our proposal to grant bodies being moved off .gov.uk a pre-emptive right to register a domain in the second level, even where an identical string in another third level (eg .co.uk) pre-dated the registration in the .gov.uk space. The considerable majority of respondents to our question on reserved domains agreed with this proposal, and that the proposed policy balanced the needs and expectations of stakeholders appropriately.

Notwithstanding this, in allocating a reserved domain, we have been mindful of the potential for contention and our objective has been to minimise this where possible. In particular, we have sought to minimise conflicts with third level domain holders in .co.uk where the third level registrant:

1. might otherwise have a right of refusal; and,
2. in accordance with our dispute resolution policy, has rights in the domain name, for example a trademark or another unregistered right.

Consistent with the Government’s own principle that the domain should describe the primary purpose of the domain, bodies have been allocated a reserved domain that reflects the purpose of the organisation eg supremecourt.uk, using commonly known or brand names, some of which are a matching string to their current .gov.uk domain. In allocating reserved domains, we also examined the public body’s website to ascertain how the body refers to itself and how it is perceived by the public. We have also reviewed contending domains to establish whether they would, on their face, have rights in a domain name. Finally, we noted from the list of bodies to be migrated off .gov.uk supplied by Government in its response, that it would not be possible to simply reserve a matching domain name string in the second level in all cases. This was because some of the bodies used sub-domains or web-pages where their identity was not explicitly clear in the domain name they used.

As a consequence, in spelling out the primary purpose of the organisation in the domain, 9 domain names have been reserved in favour of the public body rather than the .co.uk registrant. However, in all of these contention cases at the time of review, the .co.uk registrant would not, on its face, have rights in the domain as the .co.uk domain is either parked or resolving to another website.

3. Minimising three letter acronyms

In order to minimise contention and reserve domains that provide a clear description of their purpose, we do not intend to reserve matching domains of three letter acronyms for public bodies subject to a justifiable exception for mi5.uk and mi6.uk (both of which include the terms MI5 and MI6 on their websites). We noted that the domains of a number of public bodies consisted of three letter acronyms that are somewhat placed into context in the .gov.uk space. At the second level, this signal would no longer aid the internet user. As three letter acronyms also raise higher potential for contention and are less able to signal a unique primary purpose of the domain, they have generally not been reserved.

4. Maintaining consistency where appropriate

We have sought to maintain a consistent approach to the creation and allocation of reserved domains.

5. Reserved domains are intended for independent bodies

As outlined in our consultation, our proposal was intended to support those bodies that would be migrated off the .gov.uk domain space as a result of the Government's Digital Transformation Programme. It is not intended as a means to reserve domains that would not be used as a body's primary domain. Where it is unclear that the body is migrating off the .gov.uk domain, or whether the domain is required for a public body rather than an initiative, campaign or for the provision of information, we have asked for further details from Government Digital Service. In the absence of an existing body being migrated away from .gov.uk, we do not intend to reserve a second level domain. A third level domain in eg .org.uk can already be registered for these websites and the choice to register a second level domain will become available in the summer of 2014.

Next steps and delegation of reserved domains

In summary, out of 69 domain names requested by Government, at the time of writing:

- 12 bodies have a right of refusal due to registration of an existing .co.uk domain
- There are 21 contentions with existing .co.uk domains, none of which have obvious rights in the domain name eg parked, non-resolving, re-directed, blog (1)

Bodies that wish to take up their reserved second level domain will be able to do so when second level domains are made available from the summer of 2014. These bodies will have five years to decide whether they wish to take up their domain. If the domain is not delegated, the right will fall away and the domain will become available for general registration.

These domains will be made available under our standard Registrant Terms and Conditions and subject to our Rules of Registration. Bodies will need to have a registrar in order to delegate the domain.

Four domains were approved to be delegated ahead of general availability in order to enable those organisations to meet technical deadlines to migrate off the .gov.uk domain space. These were domains for the Supreme Court, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the Royal Household, and the Prince of Wales.

Nominet will directly inform the registrants of any .co.uk domains that are affected by the reservation when the reserved list has been finalised and is published.

APPENDIX 2

RULES APPLICABLE FROM LAUNCH DATE

Rules

IMPORTANT: The purpose of this document is to describe the Nominet (UK) ("We", "Our" or "Us") rules for the registration and use of domain names within the *.uk* domain and its sub-domains (the "Rules"). The Rules as amended from time to time form part of our terms and conditions and are part of your contract of registration with us. The terms and conditions are [here](#). Except where otherwise stated in the Rules, the definitions used in the terms and conditions apply to the Rules.

1. Domain Name Definitions

1.1 <internet.uk> and <internet.co.uk> are domain names ("Domain Names"). A Domain Name is made up of several levels of domains. A domain name may be comprised of a number of different levels. In these Rules the terms top level domain ("TLD"), second level domain ("SLD") and third level domain ("Third Level Domain") and fourth level domain ("Fourth Level Domain") will be used accordingly (see **Fig 1**).

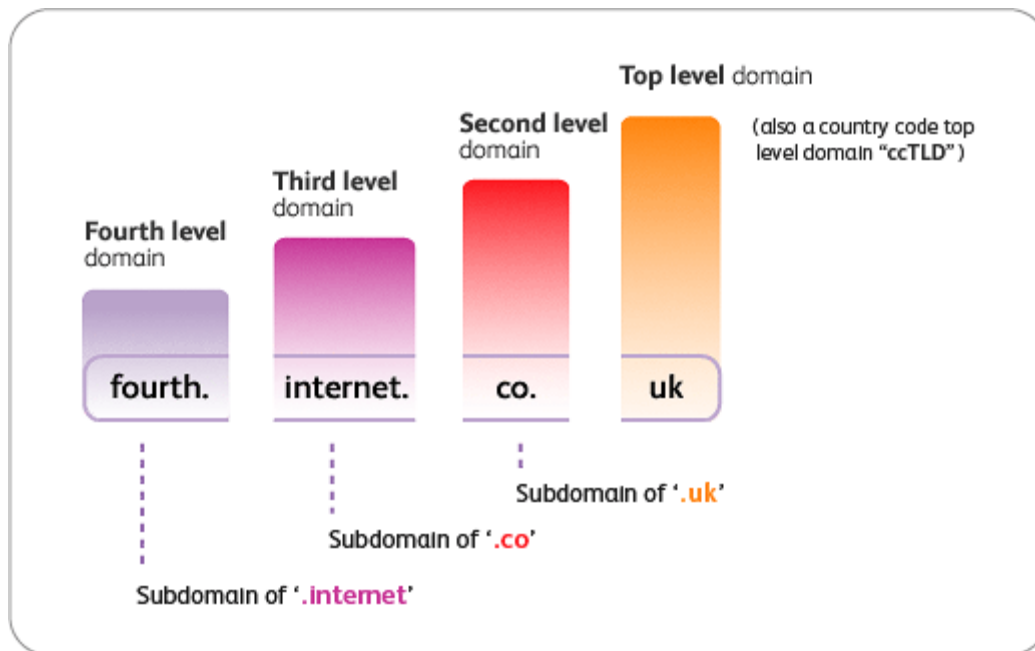


Figure 1.

1.2 The SLD is a sub-domain of the TLD. The Third Level Domain is a sub-domain of the SLD. The Fourth Level Domain is a sub-domain of the Third Level Domain. (see **Fig 1**).

1.3 *.uk* Domain Names can be registered either at the second level or within a particular SLD. For example the Domain Name internet.uk is registered at the second level within the .uk registry and the Domain Name internet.co.uk is registered within the .co SLD.

1.4 When an application for registration of a Domain Name is submitted to us by you, or on your behalf, you are an applicant. If your application is successful your Domain Name will be registered by us and you will be the registrant.

2. Registration of Domain Names - SLDs administered by us

2.1 The Rules have been made by us in our capacity as designated manager for the *.uk* TLD with the authority of the UK Internet Community.

2.2 We administer the *.uk* TLD and the SLDs within the *.uk* TLD (except for the SLDs listed in Appendix B below) A list of the SLDs which are administered by us are listed in Appendices A & C below.

2.3 Each application by you for a Domain Name must either be an application to register one SLD or one Third Level Domain within one particular SLD listed in Appendix A.

2.4 Certain organisations have registered Domain Names with us and these organisations may offer to register a Fourth Level Domain for you as a sub-domain of their Domain Name. We do not accept responsibility for any registration of Fourth Level Domains by you with other organisations, nor do we control the naming of these Fourth Level Domains by these Rules or otherwise.

2.5 Each SLD listed in Appendix A has its own specific rules ("SLD Rules"). All of the SLD Rules form part of the Rules. Where there is a conflict between the Rules and the SLD Rules, the SLD Rules take precedence.

2.6 If your application to register a Domain Name within an SLD listed in Appendix A is successful, this in no way entitles you to any right to or registration of any other Domain Name. For example an application to register the Domain Name internet.co.uk will not entitle you to a registration for the Domain Name internet.xyz.co.uk or the Domain Name internet.org.uk.

3. Other SLDs

3.1 The SLDs listed in Appendix B, as amended from time to time, have been delegated to and are administered by other entities as trustees.

3.2 We do not administer the SLDs in Appendix B and therefore do not accept applications for registration of a Domain Name within these SLDs. If you would like to submit an application to register a Domain Name within these SLDs, please click on the appropriate link in Appendix B to access information on and the identity of the administrators of these SLDs.

3.3 Appendix C lists other SLDs administered by us which are reserved for specific purposes.

4. General Rules

4.1 We reserve the right to check your application for compliance with the Rules either before or after your Domain Name is registered or renewed with us.

4.2 We will accept applications which comply with the Rules and register Domain Names on a first come first served basis. This means that, except where set out in the SLD Rules, we will not vet your application to:

1. restrict who may apply for and register Domain Names; or
2. restrict which Domain Names may be held by you; or
3. restrict the number of Domain Names which may be held by you.

4.3 If your application is for a Domain Name which is identical to a Domain Name which has already been registered with us, your application will be rejected. Note that domain names are not case sensitive, so that internet.co.uk is the same as InTeRnEt.co.uk, and accordingly cannot be separately registered. Thus these Rules are drafted on the assumption that all letters are lower case.

4.4 We do not impose restrictions on your status as applicant for the registration of a Domain Name in the following SLDs ("Open SLDs"):

1. 4.4.1 .co.uk; or
2. 4.4.2 .org.uk.

In the SLD Charter of the SLD Rules for the Open SLDs we do set out certain intentions regarding the class of applicant or use of registrations of the Domain Name which we assume you will comply with when applying for a registration of a Domain Name within an Open SLD. However, we do not forbid applications, and will take no action in respect of registrations that do not comply with the SLD Charters. We may request certain information from you regarding your legal identity when you make an application for or seek to amend the registration of a Domain Name in the Open SLDs.

4.5 For any application by you for a Domain Name within the remaining available SLDs listed in Appendix A ("Closed SLDs") we do specify certain criteria in the "Requirements on Applicants" section of the SLD Rules which you must comply with before your application for a Domain Name in a Closed SLD can be accepted by us.

4.6 As set out in our terms and conditions, we may cancel or suspend the registration of a Domain Name if you breach any of the Rules.

4.7 Some Domain Names and SLDs have been allocated to registrants or to other organisations for historical reasons. No change in these rules will affect the validity of a Domain Name registration which was registered before the date of that change unless, in Nominet's sole discretion, technical reasons require that such a change shall effect the validity of an existing Domain Name registration.

5. Restrictions on Domain Names

5.1 If the Domain Name in your application does not meet the requirements in this section then your application cannot be accepted by us.

5.2 The Domain Name may only contain the following thirty-seven characters ("Characters") or a combination thereof:

5.2.1 the twenty-six unaccented Roman letters (i.e. a-z inclusive);

5.2.2 the ten western digits (i.e. 0-9 inclusive); and

5.2.3 hyphens.

5.3 The first or last Characters of a Third Level Domain may not be a hyphen.

5.4 Nominet does not offer Internationalised Domain Names and so domain names that start with the characters "xn--" (i.e. "xn" followed by two dashes) may not be registered.

5.5 For policy reasons Characters corresponding to an existing SLD in .uk shall not be permitted as a Third Level Domain within co.uk, me.uk, org.uk and net.uk. At present these are the following: ac, co, gov, ltd, me, mil, mod, net, nhs, nic, org, plc, police and sch.

5.6 For a combination of policy and continuing technical reasons the Characters "com" and "uk" shall not be permitted as an SLD or a Third Level Domain within co.uk, me.uk, org.uk or net.uk.

5.7 Until further notice, the Domain Name (e.g. internet.co.uk) may not be more than sixty-four Characters long in total, including the Third Level Domain, the SLD and the TLD. We intend to allow longer domain names, where the third level domain has a maximum of 63 Characters. This change will be brought in when possible and the amended limit shall take effect when announced on Nominet's website.

6. Appendices

6.1 APPENDIX A

Our SLDs (second level domains)

Domain	SLD purpose
co.uk	Commercial entities and purposes
ltd.uk	Private limited companies
me.uk	Personal names
net.uk	Internet Service Providers' infrastructure
org.uk	Not-for-profit entities
plc.uk	Public limited companies

6.2 APPENDIX B

SLDs administered by third-party registrars as trustees.

Domain	SLD expected use
ac.uk	Higher and further education and research institution

SLDs administered by third-party registrars as trustees.

Domain	SLD expected use
gov.uk	National, regional, and local government bodies and agencies
mod.uk and mil.uk	Military and related purposes
nhs.uk	National Health Service
police.uk	Police forces

6.3 APPENDIX C

SLDs which are operated by Nominet but for restricted use.

Domain	SLD expected use
nic.uk	Network use only
sch.uk	Schools

SLD registrations (NOTE RESERVATION RIGHTS APPLY TO CERTAIN HOLDERS OF THIRD LEVEL REGISTRATIONS UNTIL 10 JUNE 2019)

In order to register a new Domain Name as a SLD within .uk, the following requirements apply:

- Any person may register a SLD within .uk
- Where a registrant address is not within the United Kingdom, a UK address for service must also be supplied
- PO Box addresses (or equivalent services) are not permitted
- The sale of third level registrations to unrelated third parties is not permitted

8. Specific Rules for registration in the .co.uk SLD

8.1 Introduction

These are the specific rules for the .co.uk SLD, administered directly by us. They form part of and, in the case of conflict, take precedence over the Rules.

8.2. SLD Charter

Domain Names registered in the .co.uk SLD are intended to be used for commercial purposes, and the Third Level Domains are intended to reflect and be related to these purposes.

9. Specific Rules for registration in the .org.uk SLD

9.1 Introduction

These are the specific rules for the .org.uk SLD, administered directly by us. They form part of and, in the case of conflict, take precedence over the Rules.

9.2. SLD Charter

Registrants in .org.uk are intended to be not-for-profit or public service enterprises, and a Third Level Domain within this SLD is intended to be related to these enterprises and their activities. These may include, as non-exhaustive examples, charities, trades unions, political parties, community groups, educational councils, and professional institutions.

10. Specific rules for the .me.uk SLD

10.1 Introduction

These are the specific rules for the .me.uk SLD, administered directly by us. They form part of and, in the case of conflict, take precedence over the Rules.

10.2 Charter

The .me.uk SLD is intended to provide a personal namespace within the .uk Top Level Domain. Unless Rules 10.4 or 10.5 apply, registrants of .me.uk domain names must be, and remain at all times, natural persons (a “qualifying person”), and shall not be recorded on the register as being the agent, trustee, proxy or representative for any person or entity (whether having an individual legal personality or not) which is not a qualifying person.

10.3 No actions unless in accordance with the Charter

Unless Rules 10.4 or 10.5 apply, no registration, transfer, renewal or change may be requested to a .me.uk domain name which would be in breach of Rule 10.2, and any such request may be rejected. If, despite the previous sentence, such an action is requested and does occur, Nominet may reverse that action at any time in addition to any other rights Nominet may have by contract or otherwise.

10.4 Charter

10.4.1 Where, as the result of the DRS or judicial proceedings (of relevant jurisdiction) a .me.uk domain name is to be transferred to a person who would not qualify under Rule 10.2 (the “transferee”), the transfer to, and continued registration by, the transferee shall be permitted provided that no use is made of that .me.uk domain name for any purpose, for so long as the transferee holds the domain name.

10.4.2 To prevent a breach of Rule 10.4.1, Nominet may put the domain name into a special status e.g. by blocking the entry of any nameservers onto the record for that domain.

10.4.3 The transferee under clause 10.4.1 will be able to transfer the domain name to a qualifying person, in which case the specific restrictions imposed under this Rule 10.4 will cease to apply.

10.5 Transitional Arrangements

As a transitional measure, any .me.uk domain name registered before 25 October 2004 will not be subject to Rules 10.2 and 10.3 until it is next transferred or cancelled.

11. Specific rules for the .ltd.uk and .plc.uk SLDs

11.1. Introduction

These are the specific rules for the .ltd.uk and .plc.uk SLDs, administered directly by us. They form part of and, in the case of conflict, take precedence over the Rules.

11.2. Requirements on Applicants

11.2.1. No Third Level Domain shall be registered in either the .ltd.uk or .plc.uk SLD unless all the requirements of this section are met.

11.2.2. All registrants in .ltd.uk and .plc.uk must be incorporated companies (not partnerships of any type or unincorporated companies) listed on the index of company and corporate names ('the Names Register') maintained under section 714 of the Companies Act 1985 (or later equivalents); and

11.2.2.1. (for .ltd.uk domains) must be entitled to use 'Limited', 'cyfyngedig', 'ltd.' or 'cyf'. in their corporate name; or

11.2.2.2. (for .plc.uk domains) must be entitled to use 'Public Limited Company', 'Cwmni cyfyngedig cyhoeddus', 'Plc.' or 'ccc'. in their corporate name.

11.2.3.1. is a company of the appropriate type for the SLD; and

11.2.3.2. is not already the registrant of a Domain Name in that SLD.

11.2.4 No Domain Name shall be registered in either .ltd.uk or .plc.uk SLD unless the Third Level Domain can be derived from the official company name of the applicant using the algorithm in Clause 10.3 below. If the algorithm of Clause 11.3 below does not generate a name permitted by the Rules, your application to register a Domain Name within the .ltd.uk or .plc.uk SLDs will be refused.

11.2.5 Applications for Domain Names in the .ltd.uk and .plc.uk SLDs must state the full name of the company as registered and the company registration number, and the applicant must be prepared to provide proof of the company's incorporation.

11.2.6 If we become aware that the registrant company has changed its name, been dissolved, or otherwise removed from the list of active names on the Names Register, we may transfer, cancel, suspend or amend the Domain Name in accordance with our terms and conditions and by sending a notice in writing to the last known registered office of the company, or without notice if the registrant company has been removed from the list of active names on the Names Register.

11.3. Selection of Domain Name

11.3.1. The following algorithm is intended to assist you to convert your company name to a Domain Name capable of registration within either the .ltd.uk or .plc.uk. The steps must be carried out in the order given. All steps must be carried out, but some steps give the option of making no change. This algorithm is not guaranteed to generate a Domain Name capable of

registration with us, i.e. the algorithm may only produce a name which is still in an inappropriate format or has already been registered, and in these cases the name will not be registered to your company.

11.3.2. The following terms or abbreviations are removed from the end of the company's name:

- limited
- public limited company
- cyfyngedig
- cwmni cyfyngedig cyhoeddus
- ltd
- plc
- cyf
- ccc

11.3.3. Each occurrence of the characters "&" and "+" is replaced by (the separate word) "and"

11.3.4. All punctuation marks are removed, including the following

- apostrophe
- quotation marks
- commas, full stops, colons, and semicolons
- exclamation, question, number, and currency marks
- parentheses, (square) brackets, and braces

11.3.5. Remove any marks on or around the letters, for example accents, leaving only the "base letter", i.e. the letter without any marks in or around the letter.

11.3.6. If at this point the name contains only spaces, no Domain Name capable of registration with us may be derived. Otherwise the remaining steps in this Clause 11.3 are to be carried out.

11.3.7. If the company name begins with any of the following words or phrases, they may be removed:

- the

For the avoidance of doubt, this is done once only.

11.3.8. If the company name ends with any of the following words or phrases, they may be removed:

- company
- cwmni
- and company
- a'r cwmni

and any abbreviation of these (such as "co", "and co", or "cpy")

For the avoidance of doubt, this is done once only.

11.3.9. All spaces at the beginning and end of the Third Level Domain are removed and the gaps between words in the Third Level Domain are reduced (if applicable) to single spacing.

11.3.10. All remaining spaces must either be removed or changed to hyphens (one hyphen per continuous string of spaces). The remaining Third Level Domain must be compatible with section 5.2 of the Rules. For the avoidance of doubt the restrictions in sections 5.5 and 5.6 do not apply to .ltd.uk or .plc.uk domains, provided that there is at least one number or letter (but no hyphens) in the name.

12. Specific rules for the .net.uk SLD

12.1 Introduction

These are the specific rules for the .net.uk SLD, administered directly by us. They form part of and, in the case of conflict, take precedence over the Rules.

12.2 Requirements on Applicants

12.2.1. This SLD is reserved for the computers of network providers, that is the network information centre (NIC) and network operation centre (NOC) computers, the administrative computers, and the network node computers.

12.2.2. Registrants in the .net.uk SLD are required to be Internet Service Providers. Notwithstanding the Rules, no Domain Name shall be registered in this SLD unless, in our reasonable opinion, the applicant is an Internet Service Provider and the Domain Name registered is the same as or a similar variant of the applicant's name.

12.2.3. Without prejudice to any other test that we may apply, the applicant shall only be deemed to be an Internet Service Provider if:

12.2.3.1 the applicant is either:

- a company listed on the Register of Companies at Companies House in Great Britain under the Companies Act 1985 as amended from time to time or on the Register of Companies at the Northern Ireland Companies Registry under the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 as amended from time to time; or
- a partnership as defined by the Partnership Act 1890, Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2000 or a sole trader; or
- a United Kingdom government department, local government body, or associated government funded organisation; or
- a recognised academic institution geographically located in the United Kingdom; or
- a Charity on the Register of Charities at the Charity Commission in the United Kingdom;

12.2.3.2 AND the applicant either:

- is listed as a local internet protocol (IP) address registry with a regional IP address registry; or

- has an Autonomous System containing hosts in the United Kingdom that is listed with a regional IP address registry and that is
- continuously or at all reasonable times reachable from major Internet exchange points.

12.2.4 Any Domain Name registered in .net.uk may only be used in the manner set out in this Clause, and we may suspend or cancel the registration if we believe it is not being so used, in accordance with the termination provisions set out in our terms and conditions.

12.2.5 The Domain Name must not be used in connection with any service provided by the registrant on behalf of any other entity. For example, the Domain Name must not be used as part of another entity's e-mail address or URL.