

# Members voting pack

## How to vote

Your voting contact will have been sent an email from Civica Election Services. If you cannot find your email please contact [ukrac@nominet.uk](mailto:ukrac@nominet.uk).

The UK Registry Advisory Council (UKRAC) membership will include six elected Nominet members from three different segments of membership. They will be elected on a one member one vote basis (single transferable vote), all Nominet members can vote for candidates in all segments.

- Two Nominet members from the large registrars (Top 25 by .UK Domains Under Management)
- Two Nominet members from the mid/smaller registrars
- Two Nominet members from the secondary market (ie participate in .UK as a registrar solely to register domain names for themselves)

UKRAC members will serve a two-year term and may be re-elected. One half of the initial UKRAC members will retire after one year so that we move into an annual cycle of three elected UKRAC members each year. The UKRAC members stepping down will be those initially elected with the fewer votes in each of the three categories (Large, Small, Independent). They are eligible to stand immediately for a full 2-year term.

In segments with only two candidates standing an election will still be held so the initial term length can be decided.

## Important dates



## Candidates

Please read through this pack to see the election statements of each candidate.

Name		Company	Segment
Arnaud	Franquinet	Gandi	Large
Ashley	La Bolle	TUCOWS Inc	Large
Prudence	Malinki	MarkMonitor Inc.	Large
Barbara	Sher	Register.com Inc	Large
Rex	Wickham	TwentyTwentyMedia Limited	Large
Benedict	Addis	Stichting Registrar of Last Resort Foundation	Mid - Small
Andrew	Bennett	Netistrar Ltd	Mid - Small
Peter Sunde	Kolmisoppi	Sarek Oy	Mid - Small
Lesley	Moody MBE	AES Digital Solutions Ltd	Mid - Small
John	Richards	Watchet Web Design	Mid - Small
Dan	Rodgers	Domain Registrar Services Ltd	Mid - Small
Stephen	Yarrow	Driver Information Systems Ltd	Mid - Small
Susannah	Clark	Trading as 'Girl Next Door' but I also do some work with the NHS	Secondary market (Independent)
Ciprian	Cucuruz	Webber Multimedia Ltd	Secondary market (Independent)



24.06.2021

## Arnaud Franquinet

### Gandi

**Segment:** Large

**Proposer:** Susannah Clark

**Seconded:** 1&1 Ionos SE

### Election Statement

Gandi (€45+ million in revenues; 50% outside of France; 2.4 million domain names; +700 TLDs) has been an independent international leader in the domain name industry for 20 years. Gandi promotes an open internet for the benefit of all and enjoys a strong reputation based on (i) technological mastery, (ii) development solely by word of mouth, and (iii) attention to its customers (retail, resellers, corporate accounts).

The UK is our third largest market where we have over 20,000 customers. With over 120,000 .UK domain names under management, we are the eleventh largest members of Nominet. We are therefore very concerned with the success of the UK market and more broadly with Nominet's activities (among our top 10 largest partners).

That is why we made the decision to join the UKRAC, based on our past experience on the Board of AFNIC (French registry).

Gandi's participation - represented by Arnaud Franquinet, elected by the French registrars - allowed us to support the development of .FR and French registrars while respecting the independence of the national registry in the way it manages the development of its ccTLD, the interests of all its customers, and its contribution to the internet. It is a winning experience that we are used to.

The idea is to share with the Nominet management team to build the future of .UK: in the short term, it's about focusing on stability and committing all members to a common and agreed future path, based on a safe, secure and competitive .UK.



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## Ashley La Bolle

**TUCOWS Inc**

**Segment:** Large

**Proposer:** One.com A/S

**Seconders:** Mr Paul Woodland t/a PW New Media

### **Election Statement**

With this email I declare my candidacy for the large member segment in the .UK Registry Advisory Council. I am the Director of Domains at Tucows Inc. (TUCOWS-CA) and Managing Director of EPAG Domainservices GmbH. My nominator is Rieke Poppe of One.com and my seconder is Paul Woodland of PW New Media.

I joined the domain industry 10 years ago and have since developed a passion for the infrastructure of the internet and the role that it plays in our wider society. I believe strongly that the representatives in the Registry Advisory Council should speak for their segments but represent all members, regardless of size or segment. I hope that in this position, I can help ensure Nominet's focus remains on policies, processes, and strategies that benefit its members and the public it serves.



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## Prudence Malinki

**MarkMonitor Inc.**

**Segment:** Large

**Proposer:** 1&1 Ionos SE

**Seconded:** Blacknight Internet Solutions Ltd

### Election Statement

As a member of the Corporate Domain Registrar, MarkMonitor, part of Clarivate Analytics, I shall provide a breadth of experience to the Advisory Council sharing the corporate domain Registrar perspective and adding diversity of viewpoint to the group.

I have over a decade's worth of experience in the Domain Name sector and I am currently actively engaged in policy and development across the gTLD and ccTLD spheres including working in a member/ advisor capacity in the Registrar Stakeholder Group at ICANN level (and a member of the newly created Transfer PDP Working Group), EURid Policy Advisory Board (as a Vice Chair), Belgian Registrar Advisory Group, .IE Policy Advisory Committee, the Dynamic Coalition on Data and Trust and most recently adding the New Zealand Registrar Advisory Group (RAG) to my list of current Policy development memberships. I have extensive experience working on Registry advisory groups and appreciate the nuance and individuality of ccTLDs and the importance of national identity in the creation and implementation of policy for a Registry.

Should I be elected to the Nominet Advisory Council I would be actively engaged in refining and improving existing policies, whilst being mindful of the importance of the intrinsic differences contained within Nominet policy in comparison to other TLDs. I would be keen to maintain transparency and make myself available to engage and work alongside members to herald in the future and progress of the UK Domain Registry.



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**Barbara Sher**

**Register.com Inc**

**Segment:** Large

**Proposer:** Register.com Inc

**Second:** OnlineNIC, Inc.

### **Election Statement**

Hi, My name is Barbara Sher and I would like to be considered for an open UKRAC position. I currently work at Newfold Digital, the parent company of Web.com and Register.com, a longtime Nominet partner. I have more than ten years of experience in the domain industry, which includes the operations of various business units that manage large domain partnerships and portfolios in the capacity of .uk and other tld registrations, renewals, transfers and aftermarket. I have a deep understanding of the global domain market, supply and demand, and compliances, as well as a very broad network of worldwide domain industry contacts. My value to this position is that I would bring my wealth of experience, industry background and knowledge, and large company perspective to the Council. Thank you for your consideration.

24.06.2021

**Rex Wickham**

**TwentyTwentyMedia Limited**

**Segment:** Large

**Proposer:** TwentyTwentyMedia Limited

**Seconded:** Susannah Clark

### **Election Statement**

I'm standing for the UKRAC because I care about shaping the future registration policy of Nominet. Sadly members are not getting a fair say over all Nominet policy but the RAC is a start. I believe I can represent the views of the retail registrar. My company, 2020Media, has been registering domains for over 20 years, with a customer base ranging from individuals to corporates and councils.

Membership of RIPE and ICANN for many years has also influenced my decision to stand - there's a lot to learn from these organisations (both good and bad) and I hope my experiences will make the UKRAC a more effective voice for members.

Outside of the internet world, I've a wider interest in good governance and currently hold the post of school governor co-chair of a primary school federation, secretary of my co-op resident's association and I've just completed a stint on the PCC of my local church.

I did support the Public Benefit EGM to restore Nominet's purpose and I remain committed to seeing Nominet enact real change. I want to see Nominet lower executive pay, fairly set domain pricing, increase spending on meaningful public benefit causes and refocus on core registry operations and finally become more open and transparent with members.



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## Benedict Addis

### Stichting Registrar of Last Resort Foundation

**Segment:** Mid - Small

**Proposer:** Blacknight Internet Solutions Ltd

**Secunder:** Netistrar Ltd

### Election Statement

I run a small, unusual registrar called RoLR, the Registrar of Last Resort. It is a non-profit akin to a bad bank, with the endless task of looking after the abused domain names that no-one else wants to touch. I've been collaborating with Nominet on security for over a decade, initially in my role as technical officer from the National Cyber Crime Unit, working with the board, the technical team and operations staff. More recently I've specialised in helping ccTLDs like Nominet to deal with abuse, and disrupt the organised cybercrime groups who exploit the DNS, such as "Avalanche".

With my background in law enforcement I'm well placed to assist with sensitive questions (as well as fend off governmental over-reach), but these days you'll find me immersed in running a registrar; I'm all too aware of the joys of EPP, billing systems and thorny disputes, as well as the multilateral pressures faced by both registries and registrars.

I'm impartial with a strong technical background, having steered the ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) workparty through the whois/GDPR minefield. Good governance, cross-community work and consensus-building are close to my heart, and I'd like to help rebuild trust at Nominet.



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## Andrew Bennett

### Netistrar Ltd

**Segment:** Mid - Small

**Proposer:** Astutium Ltd

**Seconded:** BB Online UK Ltd

### Election Statement

I am CEO of Netistrar Ltd a UK-based ICANN accredited wholesale registrar. We have been a Nominet member and Accredited Channel Partner (ACP) since 2013. Netistrar is also a member of the Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG) and is involved in ICANN policy development. Before Netistrar, I have been an active Nominet member in a personal capacity since 2005. I was elected to the former Policy Advisory Body (PAB) while working for 123-reg as Domains Manager, and for the past 16 years, I have been a very proactive and engaged member.

During the recent EGM, I was invited by the previous chair of the Nominet board to be part of the UKRAC design team. As an ardent supporter of the EGM, I thought it was inappropriate to accept the position at that time. I believe that I have made the right decision to stand for election following the resolution of the EGM. Nominet members deserve an elected policy committee that is truly representative, open, transparent and answerable to the membership. If elected, I will do all I can to achieve this.

Current policy issues:

1. Expired Domains: over 100 concerned members signed a petition I put together and championed calling for expired auction proposals to be scrapped. I firmly believe that registrars should sell expired names and not the .uk registry.
2. Member Forum: a policy forum should be developed by the UKRAC which engages members openly in .uk policy decisions.

If you have any questions, please email me at: [andrew@netistrar.uk](mailto:andrew@netistrar.uk)



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## Peter Sunde Kolmisoppi

**Sarek Oy**

**Segment:** Mid - Small

**Proposer:** Sarek Oy

**Seconded:** Mr Tim Rustige - TR Computers Ltd

### **Election Statement**

The thing with me/Sarek is that we're doing things very different compared to other registrars. We're from the activist community all of us, and we're doing the registrar part both because of love for technology but also for the influence that comes with being a registrar. We want to be active within the community and have the possibility of pushing registries to work more in line with what the general public needs. We're quite small as a company but extremely professional in what we do, but with a certain flair. We're already among the biggest registrars in Finland and it's mostly because people like us as people rather than PR - which is needed since we're not really into advertisement. I think I would be a good addition to Nominet coming from the outside but having the skillset and a different mindset.



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## Lesley Moody MBE

**AES Digital Solutions Ltd**

**Segment:** Mid - Small

**Proposer:** AES Digital Solutions Ltd

**Seconded:** Odyssey Systems Ltd

### **Election Statement**

I would like to stand as a candidate for the .UK Registry Advisory Council. As President of the North East England Chamber of commerce, and as a member of Nominet for over 26 years, I feel that I have a sufficiently wide background of member-driven business organisations to contribute to the work of the Advisory Council. As Managing Director of a company, working in the UK creative digital space, I believe that a strong UK registry is important for growth of Nominet member companies like ours.

It is important that Nominet supports its members, but as members we need to come together to support our organisation, engaging with it as regularly as possible and supporting the activities that we all believe in. For me, these include working for the public good, keeping the domain space safe, and providing member services at a reasonable cost and value for money.

I believe that all members have equal value, and a level playing field for all members is essential. However, in any member organisation, we members need to take some responsibility for the growth and development of the organisation. There is a trade-off between what we members get from Nominet and what we give back. This needs to be an equitable partnership whether the members are large or small, and whether they are UK based or located outside the country.

Together we can build Nominet into a great UK registry, and with your vote, I would like to help.



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## John Richards

### Watchet Web Design

**Segment:** Mid - Small

**Proposer:** Trunk Networks Limited

**Seconded:** J E Sheeran Amusement Arcades Ltd

### Election Statement

I manage servers for small businesses, hosting their sites, mail and renewals.

Experienced working with partners, I am able to hold my ground on important issues, using my skills to consolidate views into a persuasive, comprehensive and positive presentation, especially those of small one-man businesses needing representation. With my knowledge I can make a positive input to most discussions.

A member for years, I have always had the opinion that Nominet favours larger businesses over small, independent providers, coming to a head during the launch out of the .uk domains, being excluded from doing so in favour of the large companies who had access to the EPP system and could afford the very expensive, complicated software. No issue for businesses with high numbers of domains, but for small ones, prohibitive, expensive and impractical. We had to wait two weeks, by which time all the useful domain names had been taken up by the "big boys".

Multiple complaints, whilst replied to, were not resolved and it was a case of "that's the way it is". Not satisfactory!

When the governance changed, I hoped matters might improve, but they haven't. I made representations to be heard and involved which seem to be ignored. There have been surveys - as a member I was not advised or contacted - excuse being that I had not been signed up to a members' mailing list! Important information should go to all members! Discrimination against small businesses has to stop, a level playing field for all!



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## Dan Rodgers

**Domain Registrar Services Ltd**

**Segment:** Mid - Small

**Proposer:** Freethought Internet Limited

**Seconded:** Stablepoint Limited

### Election Statement

A member since 2012, I have a strong passion for domain names and broad experience managing registrars of all sizes. Using this experience I will ensure that all proposed policies are technically sound, accessible to all members, and make sense for members' diverse businesses and models. As part of this, I believe equal access should be a cornerstone to all registry systems empowering members to compete on a level playing field.

As shown by the recent EGM, Nominet faces an issue of trust and accountability. I believe putting transparency at the heart of everything Nominet does is the only way to move forward and, as such, stand by my YES vote and the goals of the PublicBenefit.UK campaign more broadly.

If elected, I will work to ensure Nominet's policy development processes and decision making is as transparent and accountable to the membership as possible. I will make myself accessible, responsive, and transparent with all members to ensure member concerns are heard, properly considered and discussed within the UKRAC to drive better policy development within the .UK namespace.

Members may contact me at [ukrac@drs.uk](mailto:ukrac@drs.uk) or via private message on [hostmasters.uk](https://hostmasters.uk) for any further queries on my candidacy.



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## Stephen Yarrow

### Driver Information Systems Ltd

**Segment:** Mid - Small

**Proposer:** Driver Information Systems Ltd

**Seconded:** Teckna Ltd

### Election Statement

My name is Stephen Yarrow. I am 63 and have been a registrar of Nominet for over ten years. I am a small Nominet member holding 131 UK names and around 75 names from other TLDs. I started with my first UK domain in 1997: "yarrow.co.uk". Since then, I have been buying and selling domain names. I also now design and host websites and manage a Centos VPS so I have some insight into DNS.

For SPAM protection, I have used various high-end software, including Spambrella and Barracuda. As regards, website protection, I currently use Word Fence and Clean talk.

My nominator for the .UK Registry Advisory Council is Peter Booth of TAG TRAVISION, my seconded is Andy Caisey of TAG TECKNAONLINE.

I am passionate about domain ownership and the right to a domain associated with your business or trademark especially after the "one in a million" fiasco. I practice due diligence in all areas of my business which compliments my work as a Nominet registrar.

The DRS is a complicated and very important service so it would be an exciting challenge to be involved with this more directly through .UKRAC. In 2001-2002, I completed courses with the George Washington University in Risk Management, Project Management and Leadership and Communication. I hope I can bring these skills and knowledge to the table. I also believe I have the relevant experience to be an asset to this council.



24.06.2021

## Susannah Clark

### Trading as 'Girl Next Door' but I also do some work with the NHS

**Segment:** Secondary market (Independent)

**Proposer:** Mr Dale Hubbard t/a Hubbard Media

**Second:** Richard Kandler t/a CARLTON DOMAINS with TAG: CARLTON-UK

### Election Statement

I believe the UKRAC was introduced to contain, control and filter member opinions: to create the appearance of engagement, but with no powers, and restricted parameters.

If elected along with other supporters of the Public Benefit campaign like Gandi and Twenty Twenty Media, I hope a majority can be forged to re-define and re-negotiate how Members' views are really taken on board.

I will advocate:

A members' forum, that is moderated by its own members, not by Nominet staff.

The UKRAC's right to initiate its own consultations, including consultation on the future of Nominet. Members should set the agenda and methodology of their own surveys.

The UKRAC to run its own social media platform, and publish full and open minutes.

Trust in the Nominet leadership is profoundly fractured. We all know that. Some of the present Board and Executive were part of the regime which squandered £7.5 million on ventures which have not made a penny of profit.

Professionally I have worked in prisons, schools, and as a Registered Nurse. I am an ordinary person with common-sense and life experience.

I'm critical but I genuinely care about Nominet. The UK registry is an asset that should be run for the benefit of the many not the few. It is not a cash-cow to finance high salaries or speculative investments. Personally I think the whole Board should be replaced with a better one. I don't think its culture and long-term direction have changed.

The elected UKRAC must press for that change.



24.06.2021

## Ciprian Cucuruz

### **Webber Multimedia Ltd**

**Segment:** Secondary market (Independent)

**Proposer:** Stenning Limited

**Second:** Mr DJ Wood t/a Pedigree Domains

### **Election Statement**

I have been a member for just over a year, but it is clear to me that Nominet has lost its way.

The Board has been too focused on its commercial ventures while the membership was forgotten or pushed to the side to the point that we felt completely ignored.

The Public Benefit campaign has highlighted all these issues and members have firmly stood behind it. The EGM should have been a wakeup call for the Board, but I believe they persist with their commercial strategy while pretending to listen to members. Listening "exercises" and a one-way members' hub are not the solution. Bring back the forum!

Members need to be listened to. We all want what's best for Nominet and the UK namespace. We need better representation and improved governance.

Nominet is a nonprofit membership organisation and this should be reflected in the way it is run. The members should have a strong input in key decisions and the long-term strategy of the company.

If elected to the UKRAC, I intend to be a transparent proxy between the voice of the independent self-managed registrars and the Board while being fully aligned with the Public Benefit principles.



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