

## Nominet Registry – Public Comment – Rights Protection Mechanism (RPM) Requirements (6<sup>th</sup> August 2013)

Nominet welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on ICANN’s Rights Protection Mechanism (RPM) Requirements published for comment on 6th August 2013.

Nominet is the applicant for the .cymru and .wales TLDs. In response to the original RPM document published in April Nominet joined forces with other geoTLDs and signed a joint letter of applicants for geographic gTLDs to ICANN dated 12 July 2013 [Letter from geoTLDs - 12jul13](#).

Nominet’s specific responses are as follows:

### Founders Program

It is important for the Welsh Government that the .cymru and .wales TLDs promote and support Wales’ identity, language and economy. In order to achieve this it is crucial that prominent Welsh businesses, institutions, personalities and organisation are able to register and promote domain names through a widely publicised Founders program.

Whilst section 2.2.4 of the RPM document still prohibits a Founders program our understanding of proposed new section 2.2.5 in the memorandum is that we would be able to register up to 100 domain names for our Founders and key statutory bodies before or during Sunrise. Therefore **Nominet supports new section 2.2.5**.

### Trademark Validation

It is important for smaller Welsh businesses to be able to benefit from the Sunrise period rights protection without being forced to deal only with the ICANN TMCH. The Welsh economy encourages SMEs, local artisans and craftsmen who would find the process and expense of registering their Trademarks with the TMCH prohibitive and unnecessary when they are only applying for a .wales and/or .cymru domain.

Our understanding of proposed new section 5.2 of the memorandum is that we can apply to ICANN to provide an alternative trademark validation service during the .cymru and .wales Sunrise periods. (N.B. This service would not be mandatory and applications supported by valid TMCH SMD files would be accepted during sunrise.). Therefore **Nominet supports new section 5.2**

### Exemptions

In supporting these new sections, however, Nominet believes that it is imperative that ICANN explains clearly its definition of a “Qualified Registry Launch Program” and provides clarity on the exact process for applying for an exemption under new sections 5.1 and 5.3 from the memorandum.