# Tackling online criminal activity

1 November 2016 – 31 October 2017

Nominet is a technology company noted for running a key part of the UK internet infrastructure – the naming and addressing system for .UK domain names. We work with law enforcement agencies to help protect internet users from criminality online.

NOMINET

"A key part of our role in running the .UK internet infrastructure is to ensure that .UK is a difficult space for criminals to operate in. The upward trend in suspended domains confirms that increasingly criminals seek opportunities online, but also shows how our cooperation with the law enforcement community and our expertise in network analytics helps tackle this problem thanks to the established processes and cyber security tools we have in place.."

Russell Haworth, Nominet CEO

## **CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**

Nominet expressly prohibits .UK domains from being used for any unlawful purpose. When alerted by law enforcement agencies, we work quickly with our registrars to suspend domains. Suspended domains cannot be used as part of website or email addresses.





16,632 domains suspended for criminal activity (compared to 8,049 in the previous year)



### Range of legislation cited for suspension requests included:

The Fraud Act 2006; Trade Marks Act 1994; Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988; Cancer Act 1939; Proceeds of Crime Act 2002; Human Medicines Regulations 2012; Medical Device Regulations 2002; Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008; Computer Misuse Act (1990); Education Reform Act (ERA) 1998; Companies Act 2006; Solicitors Act 1974; Toy Safety Regulations 2011; Identity Documents Act 2010; Financial Services and Markets Act 2000; Psychoactive Substances Act 2016; Sections 1 & 2 Terrorism Act 2006; and Sections 3 & 7 Veterinary Medicines Regulations.



**Medicines Directorate** 



Linked Crime Online (FALCON)



Agency (NCA)



Regulatory Agency (MHRA)



(TS)





## how it works



being used for criminal activity

Nominet that a domain is





and works with the registrar to suspend the domain

requests not resulting in suspensions



#### 12 months that didn't result in suspensions

requests

received in the specified



or the domain may have already been transferred on a court order.

been suspended due to a duplicate request,

A suspension request may not result in a

suspension for a number of reasons – for example, the domain may have already

### A suspension is reversed if the offending





suspension can be lifted.

behaviour has stopped and the enforcing

agency has since confirmed that the

OFFENSIVE NAMES

### sexual offences (where there is no reasonable or legitimate use for that domain).

Nominet prohibits the registration of domain names that promote or incite serious





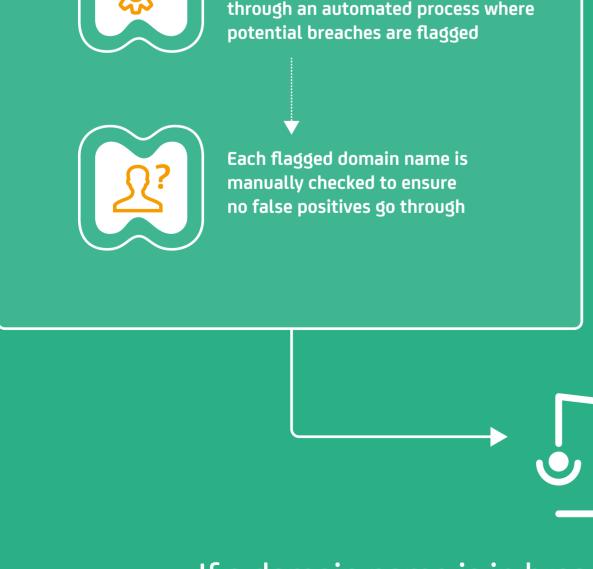


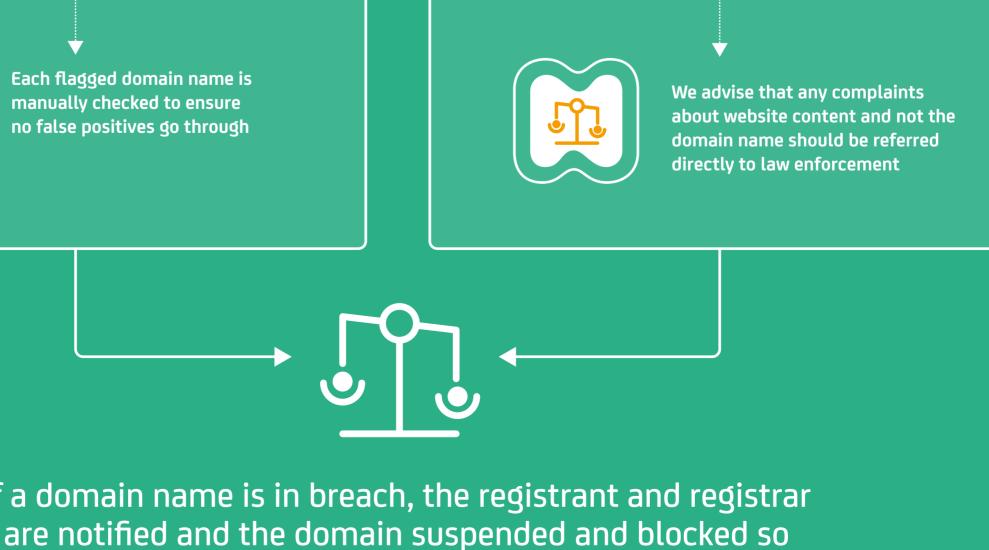
**EXISTING REGISTRATIONS** 

Nominet receives a complaint

about an existing domain name

#### **NEW / RENEWED REGISTRATIONS** New domain registrations are run





If a domain name is in breach, the registrant and registrar

Registrants have 30 days to appeal this assessment. Appeals would be referred to an independent external body.

that no one can register that domain in the future.

For rights holders who wish to seek control of a domain name they believe should be theirs, there is the Dispute Resolution Service (DRS). The DRS is Nominet's award winning mediation based process for resolving disputes between parties over the registration or use of .UK domain names. It aims to provide a clear, quick and cost-effective process outside of the formal court system and is accessible and fair to both those complaining and domain name registrants. www.nominet.uk/domains/resolving-uk-domain-disputes-and-complaints/

### **About Nominet**

Nominet is driven by a commitment to use technology to improve connectivity, security and inclusivity online. For 20 years, Nominet has run the .UK internet infrastructure, developing an expertise in the Domain Name System (DNS) that now underpins sophisticated network analytics used by governments and enterprises to mitigate cyber threats. The company provides registry services for top level domains, and is exploring applications for a range of emerging