

IE Domain Registry CLG

trading as .ie

**Policy Advisory Committee – PAC #43
Minutes – 13 February 2025 Meeting**



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Minutes of the 43rd Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting held on 13 February 2025

Meeting Location: Hybrid meeting: on Microsoft Teams and .ie Headquarters

Meeting Time: Called to order at 11:00 am by the PAC Chair.

Members and representatives (non .ie staff) present:

Chair
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)
HEAnet
.ie Board Representative
.ie Accredited Registrar (Blacknight)
.ie Accredited Registrar (Hosting Ireland)
.ie Accredited Registrar (Markmonitor)

1. Introduction & Memberships Matters

Minutes from PAC 42

- The Chair confirmed that the Minutes from PAC 42 were taken as read and published online following the meeting (available at <https://www.weare.ie/policy-development-process/>).

2. Matters arising

2.1 PAC Election Results & New Members

- The Chair welcomed representatives from Hosting Ireland, Blacknight, and MarkMonitor who were successful in the 2025 PAC election.
- The Chair also thanked outgoing members of the PAC from the Department of Employment, Trade & Enterprise, CyberSafeKids, and the Irish Computer Society for their time and contributions.
- The PAC Secretariat committed to finding new members for the PAC from each of the eligible organisations.

2.2 Policy Updates

- The PAC Secretariat discussed the recently published *Programme for Government*, and highlighted areas that may have significance for .ie in the future. Specifically:
 - New regulations on online safety and age verification;
 - A new “national cyber security strategy” and “national digital strategy”;
 - New initiatives to “tackle fraud”, including a “shared fraud database”; and,
 - The National Cyber Security Centre’s announced move to the Department of Justice

- The PAC Secretariat and CEO of .ie also gave a brief reminder about the ongoing public consultation launched by the Department of Environment, Climate & Communications about the management of the .ie domain name. PAC members were reminded that they had until 14 February 2025 at 5:30PM if they wished to make a submission.
- At the EU level, the PAC Secretariat notified PAC Members that a report from the EU Intellectual Property Office on the feasibility of a “domain name information and alert system” for Crafts & Industrial Geographical Indicators was expected to be released in the short future.
- The PAC Secretariat committed to keeping the PAC informed of any updates.

2.3 Policy Review Working Group

- The PAC Secretariat discussed the proposal for a Policy Review Working Group.
- The purpose of the working group would be to ensure that .ie policies are regularly reviewed and updated.
- The working group would proactively flag policy gaps and make recommendations on if the issue requires a PDP or minor amendment.
- The working group would meet virtually twice per year, with some asynchronous work.
- The PAC welcomed the idea of a policy review working group, and the PAC Secretariat committed to set up a call for volunteers before PAC 44.

3. Disputes and Abuse

3.1 Disputes

- The PAC Secretariat presented 2024 figures on Alternative Dispute Resolution and WIPO cases. There were 9 recorded disputes that went through the Alternative Dispute Resolution process, and 5 disputes that went through WIPO process in all of 2024.
- A PAC Member also requested that the PAC Secretariat provide information on requests from regulators or law enforcement authorities and asked for clarity on .ie’s obligations for responding to illegal content under the Digital Services Act.
- The PAC Secretariat committed to including these figures in the next PAC Meeting, and committed to clarify .ie’s obligations under the DSA.

3.2 Technical Abuse

- The CEO of .ie presented on the Year-to-Date figures from NetCraft. Monthly figures ranged between 1 and 5 attacks by group. Phishing URLs were the most detected attack type.

4. NIS2 – Directive on Security of Network & Information Systems (NIS2)

4.1 Key Updates

- The PAC Secretariat provided legislative updates on NIS2:
 - The *National Cyber Security Bill* had stalled during pre-legislative scrutiny in Q4 2024.
 - Progress on the law will likely remain stalled until the Oireachtas committees begin meeting again (currently expected after the Easter holiday).

4.2 NIS2 Priorities for 2025

The PAC Secretariat presented potential priorities on the NIS2 file for 2025. The PAC agreed that it was essential that .ie policies are aligned with NIS2, that .ie advocates against the NIS Cooperation Group Recommendations being transposed, and that .ie ensures that Registrars are kept aware of developments.

5. Any Other Business & Next Meetings

- The IGF Ireland was announced to be scheduled for **22 May 2025**, and all PAC members were encouraged to attend if able.
- The dates for the remaining 2025 PAC Meetings were scheduled for:
 - **PAC 44:** 05 June 2025
 - **PAC 45:** 21 August 2025
 - **PAC 46:** 04 December 2025