

IE Domain Registry CLG

trading as .ie

**Policy Advisory Committee – PAC #44
Minutes – 05 June 2025 Meeting**



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Minutes of the 44th Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting held on 05 June 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)
Department of Culture, Communications and Sport (DCCS)
HEAnet
.ie Board Representative
.ie Accredited Registrar (Blacknight)
.ie Accredited Registrar (Hosting Ireland)
.ie Accredited Registrar (Markmonitor)

1. Introduction & Memberships Matters

Minutes from PAC 43

- The Chair confirmed that the Minutes from PAC 43 were taken as read and published online following the meeting (available at <https://www.weare.ie/policy-development-process/>).

2. Matters arising

2.1 Legislative & Regulatory Updates

- The PAC Secretariat gave a brief overview of relevant upcoming legislative and regulatory initiatives. This included the following:
 - The *European Accessibility Act* coming into force on 28 June 2025.
 - The *National Cyber Security Bill* was listed as “priority for publication” in the 2025 Spring Legislative Programme.
 - The *Criminal Justice (Protection, Preservation of and Access to Data on Information Systems) Bill* was listed as “priority for drafting in the 2025 Spring Legislative Programme.
 - The *Defamation (Amendment) Bill 2024* had progressed to the Committee Stage of the Dáil Éireann.
 - The Internet Policy and Cyber Security Team at the former Department of Environment, Climate and Communications transferred departments. Internet Policy was not under the purview of the new Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, while Cyber Security Policy was now under the Department of Justice.

- The public consultation on the governance of the .ie domain name closed in February 2025, and we were awaiting the results of the public consultation.
- A report from the European Commission on the feasibility of a Domain Name Alert System was expected to be released by the end of the year.

2.2 Policy Discussion

- The PAC Secretariat sought preliminary views from the PAC on various policy issues. This included:
 - *Expanding eligibility for the “Connection to Ireland” check* - The PAC Secretariat sought views from the PAC on expanding the eligibility of the Connection to Ireland Check. PAC members voiced concerns over compromising the integrity of the registration process and suggested that the idea be studied further. The PAC Secretariat committed to drafting a scoping paper on the issue before the next PAC Meeting.
 - *Amending eligibility for the “Charity Policy” waiver* - The PAC Secretariat sought views from the PAC on making the Charity Policy waiver a needs-based policy. Some PAC members expressed support for repealing the Charity Policy altogether, while others advocated for leaving the policy as is. The PAC Secretariat committed to drafting a scoping paper on the issue before the next PAC Meeting.
 - *WHOIS Services Policy Amendment* – The PAC Secretariat announced they would propose a *de minimis* amendment to change the name of the “WHOIS Services Policy” to the “WHOIS/RDAP Services Policy.” There were no objections from the PAC.
 - *PAC Terms of Reference Amendment* – The PAC Secretariat announced that they would propose a *de minimis* amendment to update the names of government departments in the “eligible organisations” list in the PAC Terms of Reference. There were no objections from the PAC.
 - The PAC Secretariat sought views from the PAC on their views regarding domain drop-catching and potential preventive measures that .ie could adopt. Some PAC Members brought up the idea of a “domain auction house” but cautioned that similar initiatives had been difficult to implement in other regions. The PAC Secretariat committed to drafting a scoping paper on the issue before the next PAC Meeting.

3. Disputes and Abuse

3.1 Disputes

- The PAC Secretariat presented YTD 2025 figures on Alternative Dispute Resolution and WIPO cases. There were 2 recorded disputes that went through the Alternative Dispute Resolution process, and 3 disputes that went through WIPO process in 2025 thus far.

3.2 Technical Abuse

- The CEO of .ie presented on the YTD 2025 figures from NetCraft. Monthly figures ranged between **1** and **16** attacks by group. Phishing URLs were the most detected attack type.

3.3 Criminal Abuse

- The PAC Secretariat presented YTD 2025 figures on registration information requests from regulatory authorities. There were 4 recorded requests, all of which resulted in data being shared following a due diligence check.

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

4.1 Status Updates

- The PAC Secretariat provided status updates on key NIS2 deliverables. Key updates included the following:
 - There were ongoing efforts to advocate against the transposition of the NIS Cooperation Group Recommendations, and to engage with the new competent authority (ComReg)
 - The .ie Registrars Accreditation Framework had been launched

4.2 Key Updates

- The PAC Secretariat reported that the government stated that they expect NIS2 to be transposed by the end of 2025.
- However, the government also noted this timeline was not certain and noted that delays from the Oireachtas or at Committee stage were unpredictable.

5. Any Other Business & Next Meetings

- The next PAC meeting is scheduled for **21 August 2025**
- Scheduling conflicts with PAC 46 required this meeting to be rescheduled. The PAC Secretariat committed to sending out alternative dates.