

IE Domain Registry CLG

trading as .ie

Policy Advisory Committee – PAC #46
Minutes – 27 November 2025 Meeting



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Minutes of the 46th Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting held on 27th November 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 Culture, Communications, and Sport (DCCS)
Department of Enterprise, Tourism & Employment (DETE)
HEAnet
.ie Board Representative
.ie Accredited Registrar (Blacknight)
.ie Accredited Registrar (EuroDNS)
.ie Accredited Registrar (Hosting Ireland)
.ie Accredited Registrar (Markmonitor)
Irish Internet Hotline
IRISSCERT

1. Introduction & Memberships Matters

Minutes from PAC 45

- The Chair confirmed that the Minutes from PAC 45 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 provided brief updates on the following:
 - An EU study on the feasibility of a Domain Name Alert System for wine, spirits and agricultural products was published. The findings suggested voluntary cooperation for ccTLD registries.
 - The Department of Justice had engaged with the Registry regarding the electronic evidence package that will come into force in February 2026.
 - The Registry was still awaiting final approval for the .ie Terms of Endorsement.
 - NIS2 developments were discussed later in the meeting.

2.2 Policy Updates

- The PAC Secretariat updated that the discussion on expanding eligibility for what constituted a *Connection-to-Ireland* was resolved. The PAC had advised against expanding the policy.
- A policy proposal to retire the .ie Charity Policy was submitted by the Blacknight representative. The following concerns/issues with the existing policy were raised:
 - The policy disadvantaged Registrars, they provided administrative work registering Charities for no fees
 - The policy was often misinterpreted by Charities thinking it applied to other services
 - Registrars had other avenues to directly or indirectly aid charities if they wished, and a policy for .ie domains was not required.
- The PAC's preliminary views were sought on the policy proposal:
 - One expressed concern that the burden involved in repealing the policy and notifying existing registrants may outweigh the benefits. They also expressed concern about reputational risk.
 - However, it was also discussed that availing of this policy required extra administrative work for registrars as it could not be done through the regular automated channels, and the policy itself created a reputational risk for registrars choosing not to implement the policy.
 - It was also discussed that repealing the policy would impact a relatively low number of registrations, as approximately 7,700 domain names were marked as "charities." It was also discussed that repealing the policy would likely have a low impact on individual charities, given the low cost of a .ie domain name.
 - The PAC also advised against having a needs-based eligibility for the charity policy as this would increase burden and would not be a feasible solution.
- The PAC Secretariat committed to drafting a Scoping Paper before PAC 47, in line with the Policy Development Process to discuss next steps.

3. Disputes and Abuse

3.1 Disputes & Data Disclosures

- The PAC Secretariat presented 2025 YTD figures on Alternative Dispute Resolution and WIPO cases. There were 7 recorded disputes that went through the Alternative Dispute Resolution process, and 7 disputes that went through a WIPO process.
- The PAC Secretariat also reported on 2025 YTD requests for registrant data. There were 9 requests, 6 of which were from regulators/law enforcement and were approved following a due diligence check. 2 requests were from third parties, and 1 request was flagged as suspicious and were rejected.

3.2 Technical Abuse

- The CEO of .ie presented on YTD figures from NetCraft. Monthly figures ranged between **1** and **30** 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 NIS2 Working Group met in early November and discussed policy options for Registrant Verification post-NIS2.
 - The Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Migration had discussed Pre-Legislative Scrutiny on the *National Cyber Security Bill*, and the Bill was still expected to be introduced in 2026.
 - The Registry reported it made a formal submission to the Oireachtas Committee to voice concerns over the Article 28 Recommendations from the NIS Cooperation Group. The Registry also reported it had been in contact with the Department of Justice and National Cyber Security Centre on the matter.

5. Any Other Business & Next Meetings

- PAC 47 was tentatively scheduled for **5 February 2026**. The remainder of the 2026 PAC Dates will be scheduled before PAC 47.
- The PAC Secretariat also asked PAC Members to inform them of any charities that PAC Members wanted the Registry to donate to on their behalf, as part of an End-of-Year gift.