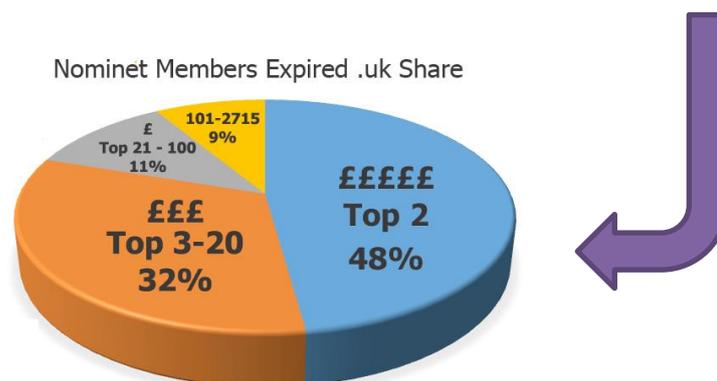
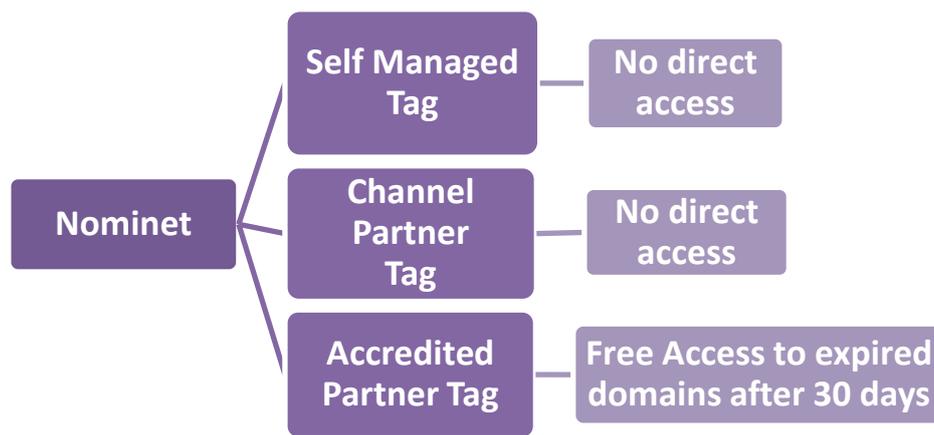


Nominet the UK registry for all domain names ending in .uk is currently consulting on a new registrar agreement. The proposed new registrar agreement can be [found here](#). In summary Nominet plans to split the registrar base in to three classifications of registrar and to start charging for accreditation:

1. Self Managed Tag Classification
2. Channel Partner Tag Classification
3. Accredited Channel Partner Tag Classification

However it is also proposed the highest “accredited” classification will be given **free access** to transfer customers expired .uk domains under clause 5.3.6:

*5.3.6. You may, no earlier than 30 days after the expiry of a domain name on an Accredited Channel Partner Tag, take steps to transfer the domain name into your name, provided that you have previously informed the Registrant that you intend to do this and obtained their explicit consent to your doing so. Even if you transfer a domain name in these circumstances, the original Registrant of the domain name must always retain the right to renew the domain name in question as set out in paragraph 2.1.12 above;*



This clause will therefore allow large registrars to take control and taste traffic on a customers expired domain from day 30 of expiry and auction it from day 90 of expiry. The bigger the registrar the more expired domains they will have expiring and in turn the bigger the revenue stream. This will leave smaller registrars with very limited access to expired domains & the top 20 registrars will carve up the expired .uk market.

### The current .uk expiry and transfer policy

Under the current Nominet renewal/transfer policy registrars CAN NOT transfer a .uk domain name to themselves without making a registrant transfer and paying £10 + VAT which the registrant has to agree to. At present then there is a level playing field and expired .uk domain names become available on a first come first serve basis:

- If a renewal request is not received within 30 days of expiry the domain name will be suspended (name servers stop working).
- Seven days before suspension Nominet will send you a suspension warning.
- When the domain name is suspended Nominet will send you a suspension notice.
- After a 60 day suspension period the domain name will be cancelled and will then be immediately available for re-registration by someone else.
- At any point during the suspension, your registrar can renew the domain name for you and the suspension will be lifted.
- One final reminder will be sent to you 83 days after the expiry date: this will be seven days before the domain name is cancelled.
- On 92 days after expiry .uk domains randomly drop and become available on a first come first served basis.



Under Nominet's proposal and clause 5.3.6 all of the above current policy process would be by-passed after 30 days of expiry – the registrar would be able to take the domain name and monetize the traffic on the domain name. After day 90 the registrar could then sell the domain name at auction.

### Alternative proposals

#### 1. A Nominet trademark based waiting List

In March 2003 a Nominet PAB sub-committee [recommended a waiting list](#). Nominet could look again at this proposal and develop it further.

#### 2. An independent third party auction with proceeds to charity

The DVLA currently [auction expired number plates](#) (raising £1.8bn for the Treasury since 1989). Nominet could auction expired domains and the proceeds could go to the Nominet trust and or the treasury (UK government) directly.