

.gov.uk Registry



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.gov.uk Registry is changing

New registry - Nominet & CDDO

Existing .gov.uk registrars get a new account on the Nominet platform and can sign the new .gov.uk Registry-Registrar Agreement (RRA) with Nominet.

Nominet will publish a list of registrars who have signed the new RRA and update it weekly.

EPP Test environment release, for technical integration testing.

12 noon - CDDO start accepting new applications for new domains.

08:00 Deadline for signing Nominet RRA.

Jisc will supply registry data to Nominet and Nominet will take over full operation of the .gov.uk Registry.

15:00 - Updates and new registrations available at Nominet.

Registrars must come into full compliance with the .gov.uk RRA.

Existing registrars who have not signed the new .gov.uk RRA will be off boarded.

7th March 2024

10th April 2024

17th April 2024

14th June 2024

17th June 2024

21st June 2024

26th June 2024

30th September 2024

Existing registry - Jisc

Existing registry operates as normal.

If a registrar is sure they will not sign the new Nominet .gov.uk Registry-Registrar Agreement they can work with Jisc to find a new registrar partner for their domains.

12.30pm Jisc stop accepting new applications for new domains.

Updates to existing domains will continue as normal.

Updates to existing domains will continue as normal.

12.30pm Jisc stop accepting updates or renewals for existing domains.

Jisc will no longer operate .gov.uk.

Other registries operated by Jisc are unaffected by this change.



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How will the .gov.uk Registry work?

Central Digital and Data Office (CDDO),
a part of the Cabinet Office will:

- Set the rules and pricing for the Registry.
- Receive, process and approve applications for new domains via a web based form where registrars will request approvals for new domains.
- Perform identity checks on the registrant and grant approval for a specific domain to be registered.
- Issue a Membership Token that can be used at Nominet to register the specific approved domain.

Nominet will:

- Contract with and invoice registrars.
- Operate a Shared Registry System aligned with gTLD operations:
 - EPP
 - IETF standard.
 - New creates require a Membership Token and are immediate.
 - Updates and renewals are implemented immediately.
 - Web based domain manager.
 - Registration Data Directory Service using the RDAP protocol.
 - DNS with DNSSEC.
 - Introduce automated DNS record checks to ensure domains meet the requirements set for public sector domains.



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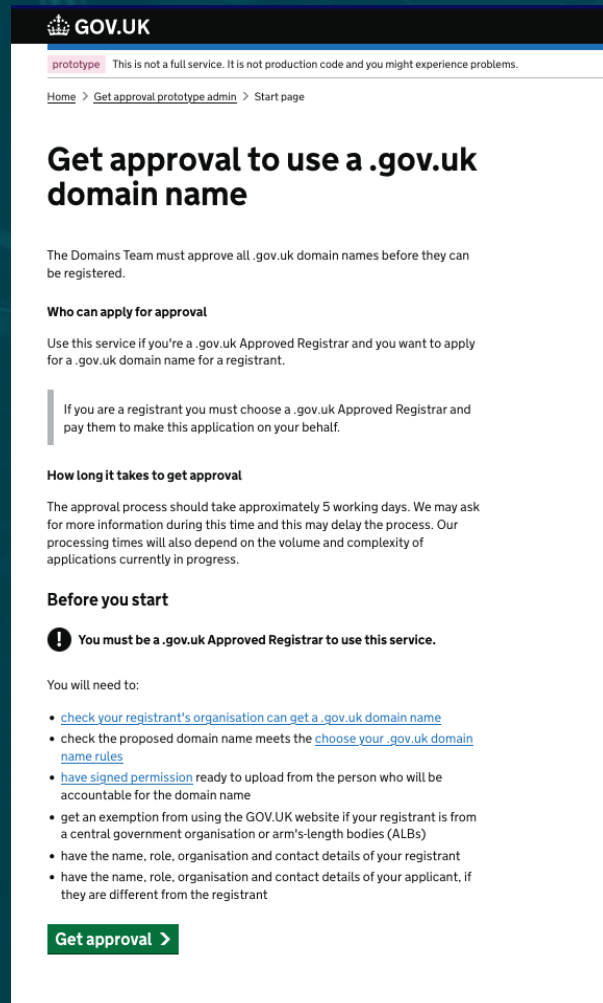


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New .gov.uk application process



The screenshot shows a web page from GOV.UK with a dark blue header. Below the header, a pink banner reads 'prototype This is not a full service. It is not production code and you might experience problems.' The main heading is 'Get approval to use a .gov.uk domain name'. The text explains that the Domains Team must approve all .gov.uk domain names. It specifies that only .gov.uk Approved Registrars can apply. A note states that registrants must choose a .gov.uk Approved Registrar to pay for the application. It mentions that the approval process takes approximately 5 working days. A 'Before you start' section includes a warning icon and states that users must be a .gov.uk Approved Registrar. A list of requirements includes checking the registrant's organisation, ensuring the domain name meets rules, having a signed permission, and providing contact details. A green 'Get approval >' button is at the bottom.

GOV.UK

prototype This is not a full service. It is not production code and you might experience problems.

Home > Get approval prototype admin > Start page

Get approval to use a .gov.uk domain name

The Domains Team must approve all .gov.uk domain names before they can be registered.

Who can apply for approval

Use this service if you're a .gov.uk Approved Registrar and you want to apply for a .gov.uk domain name for a registrant.

If you are a registrant you must choose a .gov.uk Approved Registrar and pay them to make this application on your behalf.

How long it takes to get approval

The approval process should take approximately 5 working days. We may ask for more information during this time and this may delay the process. Our processing times will also depend on the volume and complexity of applications currently in progress.

Before you start

! You must be a .gov.uk Approved Registrar to use this service.

You will need to:

- [check your registrant's organisation can get a .gov.uk domain name](#)
- check the proposed domain name meets the [choose your .gov.uk domain name rules](#)
- [have signed permission](#) ready to upload from the person who will be accountable for the domain name
- get an exemption from using the GOV.UK website if your registrant is from a central government organisation or arm's-length bodies (ALBs)
- have the name, role, organisation and contact details of your registrant
- have the name, role, organisation and contact details of your applicant, if they are different from the registrant

Get approval >

- CDDO is currently building and testing a new application process for .gov.uk domain name approvals.
- This service is expected to be available in early June.
- The migration deadline means we are aiming to understand what users need in place for this service to be considered 'good enough'. We aim to improve the service further after the deadline.



New .gov.uk application process

The new application process is expected ask for the following:

- Registrar contact details
 - Have evidence the registrant has permission to apply for the domain
 - The domain name being requested
 - Registrant organisation
 - Registrant contact details
 - Details for the registrant to be published in the Registry
- The new application form will be dynamic and ask additional questions for requests being made on behalf of central government departments and arms length bodies – more information will be available at the drop-in sessions.
 - The Domain Team will provide a membership token after a .gov.uk domain has been approved. Registrars must use this token to register the domain with Nominet at the Registry.
 - Please note the final service is subject to change based on user research feedback.



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Onboarding with new .gov.uk Registry

Nominet has created a new account in Online Services for each registrar using their email address set at Jisc on the 29th February 2024.

- Registrar users should update account contact details with Nominet and Jisc independently from now.
- Accounts in Nominet Online Services share login users based on their email address.
- After login you can choose your account from the drop-down menu in the top bar.
 - 'CDDO' accounts are used for the .gov.uk Registry.
 - Data in CDDO accounts is accessible by both Nominet and CDDO.
- .gov.uk registrars must login to Nominet's Online Services and sign the new .gov.uk RRA.
 - A link will show: "An RRA for a TLD you have onboarded with has been updated. Please review the new terms and conditions."
 - On 10th April 2024 and then weekly Nominet will publish a list of registrars that have signed the new .gov.uk RRA to signpost the state of readiness to registrants.
- On 17th April Nominet will deploy an EPP based test environment for any registrars who wish to integrate through EPP.



Offboarding with new .gov.uk Registry

If you have decided that you do not wish to sign the new RRA then you should notify Nominet of this intent by the **10th April 2024**.

- After the **10th April**, registrars must work with Jisc to help find a registrar that has signed the new agreement ensuring domains can continue to be managed.

Any registrars that have not signed the RRA by the **26th June 2024** will not be able to register any new domain names in .gov.uk and will be off boarded by Nominet after transition, starting from **27th June 2024**.

- Nominet will work with each registrar to ensure a smooth transition for each domain.



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Account information & Billing

Registrar Contacts

- Please check and update all contact information in your newly created Nominet account.
- Please make sure you update your Abuse contact settings as this will be published on the RDAP results for your domains:
 - Account settings > Roles > gTLD registrar > gTLD Registrar Abuse
 - Any accounts that do not have this set will automatically publish the main Administrative Contact.
 - Nominet will use the main administrative contact on your registrar account for any compliance matters.

Registrar Billing

- Pricing is £10+VAT per annual increment of a create or renew billed to the registrar.
- All domains will auto-renew at the registry at their expiry time and be billed to the registrar.
- Domains which are deleted in the auto-renew grace period will be credited back to the registrar's account.
- Registrar accounts will be billed monthly for transactions in the previous month.
- Accounts may have a credit limit set; but all payments are due 30 days from invoice.
- Auto-renewals are not subject to the credit limit but do impact the credit limit.
- Please note your billing account for CDDO is independent of all accounts with Nominet for .UK, they must be settled independently.



Policies

The RRA requires registrars comply with two types of policies:

.gov.uk Registry Operational Policies
which are published on the Nominet site:

- .gov.uk Registry Contact Data Policy
- .gov.uk New Registration Policy
- .gov.uk Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy
- .gov.uk Registry-Registrar Lifecycle Policy
- .gov.uk Add Grace Period Limits Policy
- .gov.uk Registry Lock Policy
- .gov.uk Billing and Pricing Policy
- .gov.uk Reseller Policy
- .gov.uk Registry Checks Policy

Domain registration and management
rules laid out by CDDO published on
GOV.UK.



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Registry Systems

- Registry systems will be aligned with gTLDs:
 - Inter-registrar transfers require the setting of a Transfer Authorization Code by the losing registrar. Unlike gTLDs:
 - domains will move within a minute of a request by the gaining registrar.
 - it will be possible to transfer between registrars without renewing a domain.
 - Lifecycle is aligned to gTLDs and requires registrars to take action to delete domains that are not renewed.
- New creates: Allocation Token Extension for EPP (RFC8495) can be used to register new domains;
 - Web Domain Manager users will be asked for it in the user interface.
- The EPP fee extension can be used on the registry, so financial transactions will include current balance information.
- At the time of transition to Nominet; we do not intend to be carrying out hard checks under the Registry Checks Policy but will announce the details in advance of each type of check.



Transition day

26th June 2024

- On the 26th June 2024, Jisc will export their current and up to date registry data for domains and provide it to Nominet.
- On completion of the transition on 26th June 2024; Nominet will notify all registrars and registrars will have direct access to the live production environment.

What comes next?

- No later than the 30th September 2024; all registrars must be in full compliance with the .gov.uk Registry-Registrar Agreement.
- The .gov.uk Registry Checks Policy is in place from 26th June 2024; but Nominet will notify registrars of when soft and hard checks start with the details.



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