

Registrar Advisory Group

- DATE:** 06 May 2026, 9 AM to 10 AM NZ Time
- ATTENDEES (DNC):** Barbara Pearse, Commissioner (Chair)
Dylan Connolly, Operations Manager
Ann Ibrahim, Head of Technical and Relationships
- ATTENDEES (InternetNZ):** Josh Simpson, Product Infrastructure Lead
Isobel Egerton, Domain Name Policy Lead
David Parker, Business Operations Lead
Maria Skatova, Generate Manager
Rose Jamieson, General Manager, Public Impact
Tim Johnson, GM Customer and Product
- ATTENDEES (RAG Members)** Lee Miller - 1st Domains Limited
Neil Stockbridge - Metaname
David Grice - DIA
Melissa Tihiariki - TPP WholeSale
- APOLOGIES** Shaun Fisher - Vetta
Prudence Malinki - Mark Monitor
Sonya Trompeter, Product Support Manager - InternetNZ
- AGENDA**
- A. DNC updates:**
1. Welcome
 2. Consent to take Gemini Meeting Notes from attendees.
 3. Action items from 03 Feb 2026 meeting
 4. Updates on Authorisation Agreement & Connection Agreement re-signing process. Completed and thanks for responses. Welcome any feedback on the process.
 5. Change of domain name holder (DNH) and registrar transfers process review (legitimate and where unauthorised) - establish working group and will flow into .nz Rules work this year.

6. DNC to give a demo of the third-party verification service and provide an overview of that service to registrars.
7. DNC's Monitoring plan published with key focus areas.
8. Consult with RAG on RegCheck tool/ preventive hold.

Action Items - 03 February 2026

Item	Owner	Status
DNC to send a notice to registrars about email phishing campaigns targeting domain name holders around renewals.	Ann	Completed.
DNC to give a demo of the third-party verification service and provide an overview of that service to registrars at the next registry advisory group meeting.	Dylan	Completed at 6 May 2026 Meeting
Save the date for the Registrar summit	Maria	Completed. Sent on 14 April 2026
Follow up on a non-disclosure for the advisory group.	Tim/David	Recommendation is proposed changes to the Terms of Reference that RAG members will be consulted on as per the process.
Look at the change of DNH process in conjunction with potential rule amendments as part of the rules program and increase scope to include transfer to new registrar. Consider both authorised and process for unauthorised transfers.	Isobel/DNC	Discussed at 6 May 2026 Meeting. A Working Group to be established to carry out a review. DNC will lead with input from four members and key InternetNZ staff.

<p>Update and circulate the link to the existing website information on user education of audits, requirements, and what to expect and ensure that information is included in the initial email sent to the registrar.</p>	<p>Dylan</p>	<p>DNC will prepare the information on user education of audits and requirements. Once prepared, the DNC will share with RAG members for feedback before publishing on the DNC's website.</p>
<p>Registrars to provide any thoughts or requests for particular topics to cover at RAG meetings</p>	<p>All RAG Members</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

B. InternetNZ Updates

- Rose: Cyber Security Critical Infrastructure Submission Update.
- Isobel: WHOIS review update.
- Maria:
 - Registrar Summit - dates & topics etc.
 - Domain Lock - updates.

C. Registrar Updates

- Open discussion for registrar to discuss/bring up topics of interest.

MEETING MINUTES

The Commissioner welcomed the attendees and updated on the status of action items mentioning that the [DNC's first proactive monitoring plan was published on the DNC's website](#) in April, setting out key focus areas for sample testing planned for Q3 and Q4 of this year. Before testing begins, DNC will offer training and guidance to registrars, giving them an opportunity to identify and fix any issues within their portfolios.

In terms of the authorization and connection agreement, the re-signing process is complete. DNC will follow up with two registrars separately.

Phishing renewal scam is on-going registrar confirmed that phishing renewal emails remain active, often occurring on weekends when support teams are unavailable. The scam emails appear to be targeting DNH's of New Zealand based registrars.

One registrar is seeking to mitigate this with on-going education to DNHs. Discussion on how DNH email addresses were being identified and used to send scam emails. Whether InternetNZ were aware of any WHOIS scraping issues.

Change of DNH and registrar transfers DNC noted some recent examples of compromised DNH credentials and accounts at the registrar control panel level are leading to domains being hijacked, transferred to new registrars, and details being updated. This often involves a lack of two-factor authentication (2FA) on customer accounts at the registrar end.

DNC is wanting to broaden the scope of the review of the process for change of DNH [refer action items] to include change of registrar (both authorised and when unauthorised). DNC will lead the project and set up a working group, with volunteers from RAG members, key InternetNZ and DNC staff to analyze current registrar processes, identify the issues and identify potential solutions.

DNC and InternetNZ will organize meeting dates and reach out to the confirmed participants on next steps.

Registration Check Tool and Protective Hold - next steps DNC is planning a consultation with members regarding the on-going development of the registration check tool and the implementation of a protective hold. An internal workshop is scheduled for this week to discuss the technical aspects of these changes. Further information and engagement opportunities will be shared at the next advisory group meeting scheduled for 05 August 2026.

Identity Verification Demo DNC provided a brief demo of the identity verification tool used for the identity verification audits. The process involves advising the registrar. The DNC uses APLYiD as the identity provider, which specializes in anti-money laundering verification. DNC does not download or store the submitted documents which are subsequently deleted from the providers systems.

Cyber Security Critical Infrastructure Submission Overview: InternetNZ provided an overview of their submission on the proposed legislative framework for improving New Zealand's national cyber security, which targets critical infrastructure and is similar to frameworks in the EU, Canada, and

Australia. The proposal focuses on a proactive risk management approach rather than just incident response, with clear legislative obligations for entities deemed essential services. The Domain Name System (DNS) was named as a separate asset class in the proposal and is expected to fall into Tier 1 (critical infrastructure of national significance), carrying the highest level of obligations.

.nz Rules Review Program and WHOIS InternetNZ outlined the [annual .nz rules review program](#), which includes implementing the first year of the DNS Abuse Strategy. A review is also being undertaken of the WHOIS query service, particularly the publicly available data, with interviews being conducted with industry members to understand how the service is used and explore ways to better publicize the privacy masking option.

InternetNZ clarified that the review aims to address concerns about individual privacy, particularly for those who have not masked their address and email. The discussion will explore whether it is sufficient for people to opt-in for masking, or if there should be de facto masking for private individuals, aligning with the ICANN approach for gTLDs.

Concerns Regarding WHOIS Abuse and Data Harvesting: registrar expressed concern that the WHOIS lookup service might be being abused, leading to customers receiving emails targeted at both generic and registrant email addresses. InternetNZ shared that the DNC's query web service receives approximately 900 queries per day and includes a CAPTCHA.

Domain Lock Development and Registrar Summit Details: InternetNZ provided an update on the Domain Lock, which is currently in its next development iteration, and invited registrars to reach out via the registry support email if they are interested in joining the beta testing group. The .nz Registrar Summit dates are confirmed for November 2nd and 3rd in Queenstown. InternetNZ is seeking input from registrars on program content, format (e.g., presentations, panels), and topics of interest.

Action Items - 06 May 2026

Item	Owner	Due date
1. Upload 06 May Meeting Minutes to DNC's website.	Ann	30 May 2026

2. Set up Change of DNH and registrar transfers working group and commence engagement.	DNC	15 May 2026
3. Registration Check Tool and Protective Hold Project: update RAG at next meeting.	DNC	05 August 2026
4. DNC and InternetNZ to consider whether any internal Group work can be carried out to identify any malicious activities re phishing renewal scam.	DNC/InternetNZ	Update 5 August 2026 Meeting
5. WHOIS Project: InternetNZ to contact participating registrars for interviews.	Isobel	TBC