Registration and Naming in the .IE Namespace
Policy, Process, Procedures, Rules & Guidelines

Effective from 21 March 2018
...a clear statement of Policy, which represents a high-level plan embracing the general goals, rules and acceptable processes and procedures which govern the operation of the .ie namespace.
Preface

This document represents the Registration and Naming Policy framework of the .ie namespace in operation with effect from 21 March 2018.

It is available from the iedr.ie website at (https://www.iedr.ie/about-the-iedr/our-policies/).

As described below, the document contains updated content arising from policy changes and the related changes to the registration rules and documentation guidelines.

The document reflects edits to the “baseline” Registration and Naming Policy framework. The baseline document, which was approved by the IEDR’s Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and accredited .ie Registrars was first published in September 2016.

The edits reflect the impact of the 2018 policy change to remove the claim to the domain name pre-condition for a new registration, domain re-assignment or registrant transfer. The policy change proposal followed the 10-step Policy Development Process (PDP) and was formally approved by the PAC and the IEDR Board of Directors in Q4 2017.

The edits also reflect the changes necessary following the policy changes implemented in 2016. These policy change proposals also followed the 10-step Policy Development Process (PDP) and were formally approved by the PAC and the IEDR Board of Directors prior to implementation. The policy changes permit:

- the registration of 1 & 2 letter domain names,
- the registration of Internationalised domain names (fadas on the vowels),
- the registration of .ie domains corresponding to Geographic place names in the island of Ireland,
- secondary market operations (the sale of the right to use a .ie domain name).

The minutes of all PAC meetings are on the IEDR website at https://www.iedr.ie/p30/policy-development/.

Finally, the edits reflect a number of minor clarifications to certain procedures, intended to smooth the registration process and improve the customer experience, including:

- the submission of supporting information and documentation electronically, and to note that this is the preferred means of submission,
- the submission of supporting information in the remarks field of the electronic application ticket, and in the body of emails sent to the IEDR.

Queries in relation to the Registration and Naming Policy framework can be addressed to registrations@iedr.ie.

IE Domain Registry CLG (IEDR)
Dublin, Ireland
21 March 2018
Contents

Preface 1

1. Document Control 3

2. Registration and Naming Policy Statement 4

3. Processes 7

3.1. Registration Process 7
   3.1.1 Procedure 7
   3.1.2 Rules 8
   3.1.3 Guidelines on documents required 11
      3.1.3.1. Guidelines on providing evidence of ‘Connection’ 13

3.2. Renewal Process 16
   3.2.1 Procedure 16
   3.2.2 Rules 16
   3.2.3 Guidelines on documents required 16

3.3. Non-Renewal Process (Voluntary) 17
   3.3.1 Procedure 17
   3.3.2 Rules 17
   3.3.3 Guidelines on documents required 17

3.4. Domain Modification Processes 18
   3.4.1 Administrative Contact Update Process 18
   3.4.2 Technical Contact Update Process 19
   3.4.3 DNS Update Process 20
   3.4.4 Domain Holder Re-Assignment Process 21

3.5. Billing Contact Change Process 23

3.6. Registrant Transfer Process 24
   3.6.1 Procedure 24
   3.6.2 Rules 24
   3.6.3 Guidelines on documents required 25

4. Legal Requirements 26

4.1. Liability and Indemnity 26

4.2. Disputes 26

5. Technical Notes 27

6. Appendices 28

Appendix 1 – Definitions 28
# 1. Document Control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Last Updated Date</th>
<th>Updated by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V.1 (Baseline PPPRG)</td>
<td>02/09/2016</td>
<td>Sarah Keegan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v.2</td>
<td>28/02/2018</td>
<td>Sarah Keegan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PROCESSES

**Domain Lifecycle management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>New Registration process</th>
<th>Annual Renewal process</th>
<th>Voluntary Non-Renewal process</th>
<th>Non-Renewal (for non-payment of renewal fees)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Name</td>
<td>nReg</td>
<td>Renewal</td>
<td>Suspension &amp; Deletion (voluntary)</td>
<td>Suspension &amp; Deletion (involuntary)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| a.k.a | nReg | Ren | v-NRP | i-NRP |

| Section Reference | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.2 |

## PROCESSES

**Changing Domain details**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name</th>
<th>Administrative Contact update process</th>
<th>Technical Contact update process</th>
<th>DNS update process</th>
<th>Domain holder re-assignment process</th>
<th>Billing Contact change process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short name</td>
<td>AdminC Mods</td>
<td>TechC Mods</td>
<td>DNS</td>
<td>Registrant update</td>
<td>BillC change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| a.k.a | Xfer |

| Section Reference | 3.4.1 | 3.4.2 | 3.4.3 | 3.4.4 | 3.5 |

## PROCESSES

**Selling or Buying a domain**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name</th>
<th>Registrant Transfer Process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short name</td>
<td>Secondary Market or Aftermarket</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| a.k.a | r-Xfer |

| Section Reference | 3.6 |

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Registration and Naming in the .IE Namespace
2. Registration and Naming Policy Statement

The .ie namespace is a national resource, reserved for the Irish, and for those with Irish connections, so our policy is that all domain holders (registrants) must have provided us, prior to registration, with evidence of their real and substantive connection to the island of Ireland. The domain holder must have a valid legal status, and guidelines are provided on how a domain holder may provide this evidence of their connection to the island of Ireland. It is our policy to authenticate the veracity of supporting documentation provided.

The good name and reputation of the .ie namespace is an important strategic priority, so our policy is to ensure that all domain holders have provided us, prior to registration, with evidence of their compliance with our registration requirements. At the time of registration, the domain name must be valid and available. Then and subsequently, the domain names must be reachable and managed in accordance with internet standards.

Guidelines are provided on how the domain holder may provide this evidence of their compliance with these registration requirements. General Rules are provided to determine a valid domain name (maximum length, alphanumeric, special characters, university, non-offensive etc.). We reserve the right to refuse applications where the proposed name is likely to lead to confusion, or is likely to be subject to an administrative proceeding under the Dispute Resolution Policy.

There is a very important distinction between the "domain holder" and the "Administrative Contact". The domain holder will be the legal owner of the 'right to use' the domain name. The Administrative Contact is their nominated representative, who will have authority from the domain holder to request modifications to, and/or the deletion of, the domain registration. The "applicant" is any person or entity who is submitting the application on behalf of the domain holder, and is usually a Registrar, a reseller, a web developer or a billing agent.

The applicant for a .ie domain name must be able to provide evidence of the (future) domain holder’s "connection to the island of Ireland".

Connection to the island of Ireland – .ie is Ireland’s domain extension. It is Ireland’s online address and as such, all .ie domain holders must be either based in the island of Ireland or have a real connection to the island of Ireland.

- Evidence of this base or connection can be a company’s Irish CR0 number, Revenue VAT number, registered business number.
- Evidence from a sole trader/partnership could be an Irish VAT number in their own name(s), or proof of their business or Irish income tax registration.
- Evidence from an Irish trademark holder could be the trademark number or a digital copy of the trademark certificate.
- Evidence from an individual could be a digital copy of the Irish driver’s license or Irish passport.

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1 For example, we seek to reduce instances of rights infringements, cybersquatting and typo squatting by requiring all applicants to agree to non-infringement and anti abuse terms and conditions.
2 "Based": means registered in, operating in or resident in the island of Ireland.
3 "Irish" in this context refers to the island of Ireland, and therefore includes the Northern Ireland equivalent numbers.
If the (future) domain holder is based outside of the island of Ireland, a connection to Ireland must be proven. When the applicant applies for a .ie domain, the applicant has to show that the (future) domain holder trades with, or clearly intends to trade with, consumers or businesses in the island of Ireland. One can use invoices, press releases, promotional material, or even a screenshot of the domain holder’s e-commerce store that shows that consumers or businesses can select anywhere in the island of Ireland as their location for delivery. Proof of the (future) domain holder’s corporate or commercial identity must also be provided.

We are careful about registrants’ rights, and our responsibilities in relation to security of the registrant’s ongoing right to use the .ie domain, so our policy is to ensure that any changes to the contact personnel or edits to other aspects of the registered domain name are supported by signed authorisation from the Administrative Contact, as the person authorised by the domain holder. Technical Contact changes may be authorised by either the Administrative or Billing Contact. DNS updates may be processed by either the Administrative, Technical or Billing Contacts in the IEDR systems.

For document serving purposes, each Administrative Contact is required to provide valid contact information with each registration request, including an email address, telephone number and postal address where they can be reached should any issue or complaint regarding the registration be brought to our attention. Furthermore, the relevant contact is responsible for ensuring that their contact information is maintained and kept up-to-date at all times.

We are mindful of certain sharp practices in the industry with regard to domain renewals, so our policy is that .ie domain renewals must be processed through the current Billing Contact (usually a Registrar). Changes of the Billing Contact (BillC Transfer) must be authorised by submitting the transfer authcode to the registry. All requests to delete a domain through the Voluntary Non-Renewal Process require signed authorisation from the Administrative Contact.

Following a policy change, effective from November 2016, sale of the domain holder’s (registrant’s) right to use the domain is permitted. Such registrant transfers can only take place when:

- a buyer has been advised of their obligations under the process, and has acknowledged their understanding of, and agreement, to these requirements.
- a buyer has provided evidence of their connection to the island of Ireland, their commercial/personal identity (as required), and has their authcode.
- a seller has informed the buyer of their obligations under the registrant transfer process.
- a seller has agreed to adhere to the updated registrant terms and conditions.
- a seller submits the registrant transfer request, along with their buyer’s authcode to their Registrar.

Domain holder re-assignments outside of the registrant transfer process are permitted in certain circumstances when authorised by the current domain holder with a signed request from the Administrative Contact. The proposed new domain holder must provide sufficient evidence of their connection to the island of Ireland, and proof of their personal or commercial identity (as required).
The relevant processes in place in implementing the Registration and Naming Policy include:

- registration process
- renewal process
- non-renewal process
- domain modification process
- DNS update process
- billing contact change process
- registrant transfer process

IEDR reference only:

### 2.2 PDP definitions

The PDP will refer regularly to policies, procedures and processes. These notions are defined below for a better understanding of the PDP.

- .ie namespace “Policy” is defined as “a high-level overall plan embracing the general goals, rules and acceptable processes and procedures which govern the operation of the .ie namespace.”

- .ie namespace “Process” is defined as “the series of procedures followed in a regular definite order, in implementing an element or segment of the Policy”.

- .ie namespace “Procedure” is defined as “the series of steps in a Process, followed by the Registry/Registrar/Registrant in a regular definite order, in implementing the Policy”.

In overall terms, the three may be considered as follows: - A process will define what needs to be done to implement a Policy e.g. the registration of the .ie domain. A process may define standards, guidelines and activities. Procedures are defined as part of processes. A procedure describes how the activities of the process are to be performed. A procedure describes “how to” or step-by-step instructions that implement the process and how the steps are to be performed for the process to fulfil a customer’s requirements.
3. Processes

3.1. Registration Process

This is the process for applying for the right to use a new .ie domain. All applicants are required to provide evidence of the (future) domain holder’s real and substantive connection to the island of Ireland, and if not provided with their connection, or they aren’t based in Ireland, provide proof of their commercial/personal identity (as required). This ensures that users of the .ie namespace can be confident that they know who they are dealing with online.

Furthermore, all applicants are required to provide a minimum of two nameservers configured with authoritative zones.

All applications must be submitted through the electronic ticketing system, and are valid for 27 days from the day of submission. During this time, all applications are subject to a triple pass process:

i. The (future) domain holder’s real and substantive connection to the island of Ireland is verified, along with evidence of their personal or commercial/corporate identity, as required. This is referred to as the Administrative Pass.

ii. The configuration of the nameservers provided is then tested to determine whether both DNS records meet our requirements. This is referred to as the Technical Pass.

iii. Lastly, our systems ensure payment has been made for the registration of the domain, and this is referred to as the Financial Pass.

Once the application has completed these checks, known as the ‘Triple Pass’, the domain is then pushed live at the next zone reload, which occurs 12 times per day at every odd hour.

3.1.1 Procedure

i. Choose an accredited .ie Registrar and submit your electronic application ticket.

ii. Include evidence of the (future) domain holder’s connection to the island of Ireland.

iii. Include proof of the (future) domain holder’s personal or commercial/corporate identity, as required.

iv. Provide a minimum of two valid nameservers, which have been setup with authoritative zones, in accordance with RFC protocols 1034 and 1035. In this regard, it may be helpful to read section 5 below. If you are unsure what this requires, we strongly recommend that you contact an accredited .ie Registrar to handle your application.

v. If you choose to apply directly through the IEDR, you should create a direct registrant account [nic-handle] and submit your application in the IEDR Console, https://console.iedr.ie/.
3.1.2 Rules

3.1.2.1 General

i. Each application for a .ie domain registration must include the following:
   - The proposed domain name.
   - The (future) domain holder’s full legal name.
   - The name and contact details of the contact persons for the domain.
   - The Fully Qualified Domain Name (FQDN) of a minimum of two distinct nameservers for the new domain (the IP number of a nameserver should also be supplied where the FQDN of the nameserver is within the domain to be delegated).
   - A declaration that the (future) domain holder (and, where the request is made on behalf of this party by a service provider, also the service provider) accepts the conditions of liability and indemnity.
   - Agreement to submit to the Dispute Resolution Policy.

ii. The (future) domain holder must be the named individual or organisation to whom the domain name is to be registered. A domain name cannot be registered in the name of a trademark or a registered business name, for example. It must be registered to the holders of these names.

In cases where the intended domain user is a person under the age of 18, a parent, or legal guardian, must be listed as the domain holder. The domain holder will be required to provide sufficient evidence of their substantive connection to the island of Ireland, and proof of commercial/personal identity, as deemed appropriate by the IEDR Registration Services Department.

iii. The domain name must not infringe on any third party’s rights, or be registered or used in bad faith.

iv. Each domain must have 3-4 contacts listed on it:
   - 1-2 Administrative Contacts.
   - 1 Technical Contact.
   - 1 Billing Contact (Registrar).

Each contact is assigned an account number, known as a ‘nic-handle’, which provides the user with access to the IEDR’s online Console.

The contact persons registered for a domain can include one or more representatives of the service provider.

However, at least the Administrative Contact must represent the domain holder rather than the service provider, and must have authority to act for the domain holder. See Section 6, “Definitions” for further information relating to the Administrative Contact role.
**Exception**

There are two instances where the Administrative Contact may be a third party:

a. Where a registrant assigns a legal representative.

b. Where the intended domain user is a minor – a parent or guardian must act as the Administrative Contact for the domain.

i. Application details must reflect the (future) domain holder who wishes to register the legal right to use the domain. Including the wrong information in the application can delay the registration process.

ii. Applicants must ensure that the (future) domain holder is entitled to use the particular domain name sought, and that they are not infringing upon the registered rights of any third party.

iii. The DNS checks must pass for the domain holder to be granted the right to use the domain, in accordance with all applicable terms and conditions, policies, and rules of the Registry.

**3.1.2.2 Rules on what constitutes a “valid” domain name are as follows:**

i. A domain name consists of a number of labels separated each from the next by a dot (period).

   The characters which must be used in a label are the 26 letters (A-Z) of the Roman alphabet without regard to upper- or lower-case, the 10 digits (0-9), and the hyphen (-). The hyphen must not be used as the initial or final character of a label, nor can it be used in combination on the third and fourth characters of a label.

   **Usage of the fada character (acute accent) is permitted on vowels (a,e,i,o,u).**

   Each label may be up to 63 characters in length. The entire domain name, counting the separating dots, must be no longer than 255 characters. (See Domain Names – Implementation and Specification: RFC-1035).

   A domain name proposed for registration by the IEDR must consist of a single such label followed by the suffix “.ie”.

ii. Applicants and/or (future) domain holders must choose to replace any spaces or unsupported characters in a mark or name with a hyphen, or alternatively, they may be omitted.

iii. The proposed domain name must not be offensive or contrary to public policy or generally accepted principles of morality.

iv. A sub-domain name must be distinct from any of the recognised top-level domain names (.com, .net, .org etc.) except in special circumstances where the Registry considers such a registration to be in the best national interest.

v. The proposed domain name must not contain the word ‘university’ unless the (future) domain holder is recognised by the Department of Education as an established university. The Universities Act, 1997, prohibits the use of the word ‘university’ to describe an educational establishment or facility without the approval of the Department of Education.
vi. **Exemptions for State Bodies**

State Agencies, which the IEDR defines as any person, body, entity or office established pursuant to Bunreacht na h-Eireann, an Act of Parliament, Secondary Legislation or established by the Northern Ireland Assembly, can apply for .ie domains without the need to supply a connection to the island of Ireland.

This includes any other State Body, Agency or Department, including State Hospitals, Semi-State Bodies, VEC’s and Local Authorities. All of the above are eligible to apply for .ie domain names.

If the IEDR can verify online that the (future) domain holder is a State Agency or Statutory Body in the island of Ireland, then no supporting documentation will be required with the application.

### 3.1.2.3 Rules on what constitutes an “available” domain name

The domain name being applied for:

i. Must not be currently registered to another party, or,

ii. Must not have any open, pending application requests for registration.

### 3.1.2.4 Reachability & Technical Rules

i. The domain holder must provide a point of contact for email where requests for information may be addressed.

ii. A minimum of two nameservers must be provided, and both must be correctly configured with authoritative zones to host the domain in question. These valid nameservers must be purchased from a hosting provider in advance of applying for a .ie domain.

### 3.1.2.5 Good Management

i. Renewal fees must be paid when they fall due or the domain will enter the IEDR’s Non-Renewal Process (NRP).

ii. If the domain is not renewed before the completion of NRP, the registration will be deleted at the end of the process.

### 3.1.2.6 Refusal of Registration

Applications can be refused on the following grounds:

i. Acceptance of the registration request may lead to Administrative Proceedings

   If the registration of a proposed domain name is considered likely lead to a dispute being raised under the Dispute Resolution Policy, the IEDR shall reserve right to refuse such applications.

ii. Insufficient information provided with an application:

   ▶ Instances where applicants are unable to provide the (future) domain holder’s required supporting information or documentation within the application ticket duration period, will result in the application for the right to use the domain name applied for being refused.

   ▶ Applications that expire before sufficient information is provided to complete registration will result in the domain name becoming available for interested parties to apply for on a first come, first served basis.
3.1.2.7 Termination of a domain registration

The IEDR will terminate domains on the following grounds:

i. When a domain ceases to satisfy any of the conditions of reachability or of good management, the contact person[s] shall be notified and given the opportunity to correct the deficiency. Should the necessary action not be taken within a reasonable delay, the IEDR will have the right to terminate the registration of the domain without further notice.

ii. If the IEDR becomes aware that an accepted request was seriously or fundamentally incorrect, either intentionally or unintentionally, it shall have the right to terminate the registration after giving due notice.

iii. If the IEDR becomes aware that a .ie domain holder has breached any of the policies, rules, terms and conditions or agreements of the Registry, it shall have the right to terminate the registration after giving due notice.

3.1.3 Guidelines on documents required

Applications can be submitted online and we recommend that you contact one of the accredited .ie Registrars, who will guide you through the process. See https://www.iedr.ie/register-a-domain/accredited-registrar-list/ for further information.

Already have .ie domains?

If the (future) domain holder has a .ie already, they can avail of our FastPass registration process. Their current .ie domain name just needs to be included with the application, and we’ll verify their Connection to Ireland from that. This way, you don’t have to send us the same details again.

Showing your connection with the island of Ireland

This connection can be shown by:

i. Companies, Businesses and other trading entities,

ii. Citizens or residents of the island of Ireland,

iii. Charities,

iv. Schools, Colleges and Universities,

v. Organisations [clubs, bands, local groups],

vi. Statutory Bodies/State Agencies.

Your Registrar will let you know what you need to send us, and there are guidelines on the type of documents we’ll need throughout this section.
Sending documents to us – How?
Please send your supporting information or documentation electronically, where possible, in order to ensure it is reviewed without delay.

Documents submitted to support an application can be sent via:

i. Smartphone (snap and send using a phone’s camera)

ii. E-Mail

iii. IEDR Console as an attachment or information in the remarks field (if applying directly through IEDR)

iv. Post

v. Fax/e-fax

Note: Accredited .ie Registrars can also send documents through the email document detacher systems.

The IEDR reserves the right to accept documentation through any other means it deems appropriate. Any additional channels for documents will be added to this list and communicated to the accredited .ie Registrars.

Sending documents to us – Where?
Documentation can be sent to us using your smartphone, tablet, or computer, and emailed to registrations@iedr.ie.

Faxed documentation should be sent to (+353 1) 2300365.

Our postal address can also be found at https://www.iedr.ie/contact-us

Sending documents to us – What types?
Documentation must be either a clear photo, or scan of any of the following:

- an original document,
- an official copy issued by the originating agency, or,
- a certified copy of the original or official copy duly certified by a practicing Solicitor, a Commissioner for Oaths, a Notary Public or a Registered Trademark Agent whose name is entered in the Register of Trademark Agents.

Original documents are not required, and applicants are asked to avoid submitting these, where possible.

The IEDR may return any originals after inspection, at the applicant’s specific request and own risk. These will be sent by ordinary prepaid post to the applicant’s postal address.

Requests for the return of original documentation must be made within a reasonable time period after provision, as deemed appropriate by the IEDR.

Document Validity
For the avoidance of doubt, expiry dates of all documentation provided in support of a domain registration must show an expiry date in the future (as applicable).
3.1.3.1 Guidelines on providing evidence of ‘Connection’

Applying for a .ie domain – supporting evidence required from (future) domain holders

To register a .ie domain, you need to provide:

- Proof of your real and substantive connection to the island of Ireland and proof of identity

In most cases, one item will be sufficient to meet our requirements, for example:

- Individuals – an Irish passport or Irish driver’s license
- Companies – a CRO number

The Guidelines below are provided for illustration purposes

A. Returning .ie domain holder – FastPass

If an existing .ie domain holder decides to register additional .ie domain names, they can avail of the FastPass registration process.

Under this process, it will not be necessary to re-submit evidence of a Connection to Ireland and proof of identity.

To facilitate this process, the IEDR Registration Services staff will verify that the proposed registrant holds an existing .ie domain name. This will ensure that the application is accepted without requesting supporting documentation.

Note: if the existing registrant has ceased trading/dissolved, the domain holder will need to provide new supporting documentation showing that they meet the registration criteria.

B. If the domain holder is a Republic of Ireland/Northern Irish company, business partnership, sole trader, school/college or charity:

The Registry will accept any ONE of the following as evidence of both the domain holder’s connection to the island of Ireland and evidence of commercial identity:

- CRO/RBN number
- VAT number (registered in Republic of Ireland/Northern Ireland)
- Tax clearance certificate from Ireland’s Revenue Commissioners (or other correspondence from them showing your VAT number).
- Irish/European Community Trademark number
- WIPO Trademark number (enforceable in Ireland)
- Registered Charity number
- College/School roll number (for bodies recognised by the Department of Education or Northern Ireland equivalent)
- Correspondence from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) (showing that you are registered for trading and resident in the island of Ireland)

4 The easiest and fastest way to submit evidence is to e-mail a scan or picture taken with your smart phone.

5 Issued in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland. NB – If availing of waived registration fees under our Charity Policy, the Charity number must be provided.
C. If the domain holder is a citizen/resident\(^6\) of the island of Ireland:

The Registry will accept any ONE of the following as evidence of both the domain holder’s connection to the island of Ireland and evidence of personal identity:

- Irish Passport
- Irish driving license/UK driving license (showing Northern Ireland address)
- Irish/Northern Irish bank statement (showing an address in the island of Ireland)
- College ID (issued by any educational institution recognised by the Department of Education)
- Department of Social Protection issued Public Services Card
- Correspondence from Ireland’s Revenue Commissioners showing your PPS number

D. If the domain holder is an Irish/Northern Irish organisation (e.g. club, band, residents association, local community group):

The evidence accepted by the Registry as evidence of the domain holder’s connection to the island of Ireland and personal/corporate identity depends on the following.

If the organisation is established as a:

- **Company** – Registry will accept any ONE of the documentation types outlined above in B.
- **Charity** – Registry will accept a registered Charity number (registered in Republic of Ireland/Northern Ireland)
- **Partnership** – Registry will accept a VAT or RBN number (registered in Republic of Ireland/Northern Ireland)
- **Other** – If the organisation is otherwise established, Registry will accept either a bank statement showing the name of the organisation and an address in the island of Ireland, or any ONE of the documentation types outlined at C. above for citizens/residents of the island of Ireland, from a nominated member of the organisation.

E. Providing evidence of your real and substantive connection to the island of Ireland if you are not resident in, based in, or registered in, Ireland

If the domain holder is not an Irish/Northern Irish company, business partnership, sole trader, school/college or charity you may still be eligible to register a .ie domain if you sell goods or services to consumers or businesses in the island of Ireland and can provide evidence of this, such as:

- Sales invoices showing that the domain holder sells goods or services to consumers or businesses in the island of Ireland.
- Signed letter from a third party Solicitor or Accountant or Bank Manager or Auditor, confirming that the domain holder is selling goods or services to consumers or businesses in the island of Ireland, or has serious intention to do so in the immediate future.

\(^6\) If providing your connection to Ireland with a utility bill showing an address in the island of Ireland, please note that you will also be required to include proof of your personal identity (e.g. passport, driving license).
Examples of the entities that can show this required real and substantive connection to the island of Ireland and the types of evidence accepted are outlined below:

- **Companies, business partnerships, sole traders and charities.**
  
  Provide evidence that you sell goods or services to consumers or businesses in the island of Ireland AND proof of your commercial identity (e.g. certificate of Incorporation or verifiable online company number or VAT number).

- **Organisations (e.g. club/band/local group)**
  
  If the organisation is established as a company, partnership or charity – please provide the evidence outlined at C for these bodies.

- **Individuals (non-resident and non-citizen of the island of Ireland)**
  
  Individuals who are not resident in the island of Ireland and do not hold citizenship in the island of Ireland are unable to meet the IEDR registration requirements and cannot register a .ie domain.
3.2. Renewal Process

This is the process to renew and extend the right to use a .ie domain registration. Renewals are accepted for a minimum term of one year, up to a maximum term of ten years.

3.2.1 Procedure
i. Contact your Registrar and make payment to renew the domain for 1-10 years.
ii. If you are a direct registrant, you can process your renewal in the IEDR Console, or by contacting the IEDR Accounts Department on 01-2365400.

3.2.2 Rules
i. Domains managed by a Registrar must have their renewal payment processed through that Registrar.
ii. Domains managed directly with the IEDR must be renewed either through the Console by the Billing Contact, or by contacting the IEDR Accounts Department on 01-2365400.
iii. Renewal must be completed when the renewal date falls due, or at any time before the deletion of the domain (70 days after the renewal date).

3.2.3 Guidelines on documents required
i. No documentation is required to renew a .ie domain.
ii. The renewal payment will need to be paid through your current Registrar.
iii. If you are unsure who your Registrar is, the Administrative Contact for the domain should request this information from the IEDR Registration Services Department by email to registrations@iedr.ie, or by telephone to 01-2365400.
iv. Alternatively, if you want to renew your domain through another Registrar, you should complete a billing transfer, as outlined in section 3.5 below.

NOTE: If you fail to renew your domain registration when renewal fees fall due on the renewal date, the domain will enter the Non-Renewal Process.

This Non-Renewal Process takes 70 days to complete – an email notification is sent on day 1 after the renewal date, the domain is suspended on day 40 after the renewal date and the domain registration is then fully deleted on day 70 after the renewal date.

Domain Life Cycle
nReg – Renewal – Transfer – Suspend – Delete

- Renewal Possible – Single or Multi Year up to 10 years (Pay by Credit Card or Deposit A/C on the API – Console)
- Transfer Possible – pay upfront and 27 days to provide signed Admin Contact authorisation (pay by Credit Card (Console) or Deposit A/C (API/Console)
- Voluntary Deletion Possible – Mail Confirmation immediately, Suspended day 40. Deleted day 70.
3.3. Non-Renewal Process (Voluntary)

This is the process whereby a registrant no longer wants to renew the right to use a .ie domain, and wishes to arrange its deletion before the renewal date.

This Non-Renewal Process takes 70 days to complete following the request. A confirmation email is sent on day 1 after the request date. The domain is then suspended on day 40 after the request date, and deleted on day 70.

Note: The registrant has the option of a “do nothing” approach, which will result in the domain being deleted 70 days after the renewal date. The renewal date is visible on the WHOIS search facility on www.iedr.ie.

3.3.1 Procedure

i. Contact your Registrar in the first instance.
ii. Provide signed authorisation, on letterhead (if applicable), from the Administrative Contact requesting that the domain be entered into the voluntary non-renewal process (NRP).
iii. Alternatively, if you are a direct Billing Contact, please enter the domain into this process by logging into your account in the IEDR Console.

3.3.2 Rules

i. There are two ways in which a domain must be entered into the non-renewal process:
   a) The Billing Contact must enter the domain into this process through the IEDR systems, or,
   b) The Administrative Contact may request that the Billing Contact or IEDR does so at its request, and must provide signed authorisation on letterhead, if applicable, requesting the deletion of the domain.

3.3.3 Guidelines on documents required

i. Provide to your Registrar the signed authorisation from the Administrative Contact on letterhead.
ii. Once the IEDR has actioned the request from your Registrar, the domain will be entered into NRP.
iii. Through this process, the domain registration will be suspended 40 days after it is entered into NRP, with the domain registration then deleted a further 30 days after its suspension.
iv. The domain holder may remove the domain from this status at any stage before deletion by either renewing the domain with their current Registrar, or by completing a billing transfer as outlined in section 3.5 below.
v. Conflicting requests – Where the IEDR receives conflicting requests for the deletion of a domain registration, it shall be free to determine which, if any, request to honour.
vi. Exceptions – If the domain is locked, or has a pending, active dispute under the Dispute Resolution Policy, the IEDR will reject such requests until such time as the domain is either unlocked, or the dispute has been resolved.

NOTE: If you change your decision, domains entered into the Voluntary Non-Renewal Process can be removed from this process by your Registrar at any time before the deletion of the domain.
3.4. Domain Modification Processes

This section relates to the processes associated with updating a .ie domain registration, including altering nominated contact information, making nameserver changes, and reassigning the registration to another holder in cases of commercial asset acquisition, restructuring or merger.

3.4.1 Administrative Contact Update Process

This is the process to change the names, address or contact details for the nominated contact personnel who are authorised by the domain holder to carry out the roles and responsibilities in relation to the domain, as set out in Section 6 of this document, Definitions.

3.4.1.1 Procedure

i. Contact your Registrar in the first instance.

ii. Provide signed authorisation on letterhead from the current or new Administrative Contact.

3.4.1.2 Rules

i. The Administrative Contact must be any staff member of the domain holding body, or a legal representative.

ii. Where a domain is registered to an individual, the Administrative Contact role must be filled by the domain holder or their legal representative.

iii. Where a domain is registered to a partnership, the Administrative Contact role(s) must be filled by up to two of the partners, or their legal representatives.

3.4.1.3 Guidelines on documents required

i. Provide to your Registrar the signed authorisation on letterhead.

ii. This must be signed by either the current, or new Administrative Contact.

iii. This letter should state:

   "I authorise the change of Administrative Contact for the domain XXXXXX.ie from [previous Administrative Contact name] to [new Administrative Contact name and email address]."

iv. Conflicting requests – Where the IEDR receives conflicting requests for the modification of a domain registration, it shall be free to determine which, if any, request to honour.

v. Exceptions – If the domain is locked, or has a pending, active dispute under the Dispute Resolution Policy, the IEDR will reject such requests until such time as the domain is either unlocked, or the dispute has been resolved.

vi. A maximum of two Administrative Contacts can be listed for a .ie domain registration.

vii. Any party with access to the Administrative Contact’s nic-handle may update the contact information through the IEDR Console, and such changes will be completed without the need for supporting documentation.
3.4.2 Technical Contact Update Process

This is the process to change the names, address or contact details for the nominated contact personnel who are authorised by the domain holder to carry out the roles and responsibilities in relation to the domain, as set out in Section 6 of this document, Definitions.

3.4.2.1 Procedure

i. Contact your Registrar, or have the Administrative Contact arrange the change.

ii. The Administrative or Billing Contact for a .ie domain can update this information by:
   a) Submitting a modification ticket request in the IEDR Console.
   b) Emailing the IEDR Registrations Department (registrations@iedr.ie) requesting the change.

3.4.2.2 Rules

i. The request must be made by either the Administrative or Billing Contact for the domain.

ii. If the request is made by email to the IEDR Registrations Department, this request must be sent from the email address on file for the contact.

3.4.2.3 Guidelines on documents required

i. No documentation is required to complete these updates.

ii. The Administrative Contact and Billing Contacts both have the authorisation to request alterations to the listed Technical Contact for a domain registration.

iii. Any third party is permitted to act as Technical Contact for a .ie domain, provided that the Administrative Contact or Billing Contact authorise the appointment.

iv. The name, company name, email address, telephone number, and postal address for the contact should be provided when requesting the change.

v. Conflicting Requests – Where the IEDR receives conflicting requests for the modification of a domain registration, it shall be free to determine which, if any, request to honour.

vi. Exceptions – If the domain is locked, or has a pending, active dispute under the Dispute Resolution Policy, the IEDR will reject such requests until such time as the domain is either unlocked, or the dispute has been resolved.
3.4.3 DNS Update Process

This is the process to change the nameservers associated with the website or email. This is a technical issue and should only be carried out by suitably qualified persons.

3.4.3.1 Procedure

i. Contact your Registrar.

ii. DNS information can be updated in the IEDR systems (Console/API) by any contact listed on the domain registration.

iii. If using the Console, the DNS can be updated by navigating to the “DNS” tab in the green ribbon at the top of the screen.

3.4.3.2 Rules

i. The DNS must be changed by either the Administrative, Technical or Billing Contacts for the domain in the IEDR systems.

ii. Nameservers must be configured with authoritative zones to host the domain, in accordance with RFC protocols 1034 and 1035.

iii. A minimum of two nameservers must be provided.

3.4.3.3 Guidelines on documents required

i. Provide to your Registrar the new DNS records.

ii. Alternatively, the Administrative or Technical Contact for the domain can log into the IEDR Console and update the DNS records there.

iii. If you have difficulties logging into your account, please contact the IEDR Registration Services Department on 01-2365400, or by email to registrations@iedr.ie, for assistance.

iv. Exceptions – If the domain is locked, or has a pending, active dispute under the Dispute Resolution Policy, the IEDR will reject such requests until such time as the domain is either unlocked, or the dispute has been resolved.
3.4.4 Domain Holder Re-Assignment Process

This is the process to change the holder of the right to use a .ie domain registration, where the domain has been sold as part of a wider commercial asset acquisition/merger or restructuring event.

The party taking over the right to use the domain must demonstrate compliance with the Registration and Naming Policy.

If you are selling the right to use a .ie domain registration outside of the circumstances listed above, you will need to submit a registrant transfer request. This process is outlined in Section 3.6.

3.4.4.1 Procedure

i. Contact your Registrar.

ii. Provide signed authorisation [on company stationery/letterhead] from the current Administrative Contact, authorising the re-assignment and confirming the reason for the request, along with a separate letter from the new domain holder, confirming their intention to take over the domain, and their Administrative Contact details.

iii. The new domain holder must demonstrate their connection to the island of Ireland, and provide proof of commercial/personal identity, as required. See section 3.1 above for further information.

3.4.4.2 Rules

i. Domain holder re-assignments must only occur as a result of:
   - a wider commercial asset acquisition/merger or restructuring event, or
   - the death of a registrant

ii. Current domain holder – The Administrative Contact must provide signed authorisation, on letterhead (if applicable) and confirm the circumstances for the re-assignment (e.g. wider commercial asset acquisition/merger or restructuring event).

iii. New domain holder – Must meet the rules and policy associated with a new registration by showing compliance with the Registration and Naming Policy (see section 3.1 above), including demonstrating a connection to the island of Ireland, and providing proof of commercial/personal identity, as required.

3.4.4.3 Guidelines on documents required

i. To re-assign the domain, the following documentation should be provided to your Registrar:
   - A signed letter from the Administrative Contact for the domain, on the registrant’s letterhead, stating that they authorise the cancellation of the domain for the purpose of re-assigning it to the [future] domain holder, and confirming the reason for the re-assignment being requested.
   - Documentation and/or information from the [future] domain holder showing their substantive connection to the island of Ireland, and proof of their commercial/personal identity, as required. The [future] domain holder must also provide their Administrative Contact details and a statement on their headed paper [if applicable] confirming their intention to take over the domain registration.
ii. Conflicting requests – Where the IEDR receives conflicting requests for the modification of a domain registration, it shall be free to determine which, if any, request to honour.

iii. Exceptions – If the domain is locked, or has a pending, active dispute under the Dispute Resolution Policy, the IEDR will reject such requests until such time as the domain is either unlocked, or the dispute has been resolved.

3.4.4.4 Limitations

i. Liquidated Company

In such cases where a .ie domain holder has become liquidated, or is in liquidation, only the Liquidator can authorise the re-assignment of the domain. Under these circumstances, the right to use the domain can, in the interim, be transferred to the Liquidator.

This requires the submission of a signed letter on headed paper from the Liquidator, confirming the asset purchase.

The new holder will still be required to comply with the Registration and Naming Policy in order to be granted the right to use the domain, and will need to provide a statement confirming their intention to take over the registration, and providing their Administrative Contact details. See section 3.1 for more information.

ii. Dissolved/Struck-off Companies

In such cases where a .ie domain holder is dissolved/struck off, according to the Company Registration Office register, any party that acquired the business assets of that domain holder will be permitted to take over the domain registration.

Proof of the asset purchase will be required, e.g. copy of the sale agreement or signed letter from a third party solicitor or accountant confirming the asset acquisition.

Additionally, the new domain holder must comply with the Registration and Naming Policy and rules, and provide a letter confirming their intention to take over the domain, and providing new Administrative Contact information.

If the new domain holder cannot demonstrate their compliance with the Registration and Naming Policy, the domain re-assignment cannot take place.

If no asset acquisition has taken place, the domain should not be renewed, and must be allowed to expire.

iii. Company – change of legal name

If a company has undergone a change of legal name, the IEDR will update the domain registration to reflect the new legal name of the company, once the name change has been verified.

If the IEDR is unable to verify this, the registrant will be required to provide a copy of the Change of Company Name Certificate from the relevant issuer.
3.5. Billing Contact Change Process

This is the process to change the nominated billing agent, which is the entity responsible for the payment of registration and renewal fees, in addition to the management of the domain registration. This process is commonly referred to as the “BillC Transfer” process.

3.5.1 Procedure

i. Choose and contact a new Registrar, agree to their Terms and Conditions.

ii. Follow instructions from your new Registrar.

iii. Your new Registrar will ask you for the transfer authcode.

iv. The Administrative Contact should obtain their transfer authcode, and then provide this to their new Registrar, who will process the request in the IEDR systems.

3.5.2 Rules

i. The transfer must be completed using the transfer authcode.

ii. The Administrative Contact for the domain must supply the transfer authcode to the new Registrar.

iii. The new Registrar must submit the request through the IEDR systems with the valid authcode.

iv. The new Registrar must ensure that invalid Administrative Contact changes are not processed with the transfer request.

3.5.3 Guidelines on documents required

The electronic transfer authcode is valid for 14 days from the date of issue and acts as the authorisation from the Administrative Contact to complete the request, hence documentation is no longer required.

i. The transfer authcode can be requested through the following channels:

   a) The current Registrar can issue this to the Administrative Contact for the domain,

   b) A request to issue the transfer authcode to the Administrative Contact email address on record can be submitted through the IEDR Console https://console.iedr.ie/index.php?r=authcodePortal/request.

   c) A request to issue the transfer authcode to the Administrative Contact email address on record can be made to the IEDR Registrations Department [email: registrations@iedr.ie, telephone: 01-2365400].

ii. If your Administrative Contact details need updating so that you can receive the transfer authcode, you should follow the relevant procedure outlined in section 3.4.1 above.

iii. The transfer process is automated once the ticket request is submitted to the IEDR systems, and the domain should appear in the new Registrar’s account immediately, provided there are no DNS or payment issues.
3.6. Registrant Transfer Process

This is the process whereby the current domain holder sells the right to use the domain registration, and is known as the registrant transfer process. Requests for a registrant transfer are handled through the current Billing Contact on the domain, and both the buyer and seller are required to agree to adhere to specific rules when undertaking this process. This is outlined in detail below.

3.6.1 Procedure

Procedure for the Buyer

i. The buyer contacts the current domain holder or its Registrar, in relation to purchasing the right to use the domain.

ii. If, during discussions with the domain holder, the buyer wants to check their eligibility to hold the domain/submit their request to purchase it, the buyer should contact the current Registrar managing the domain, in order to open their request.

iii. The buyer must agree to the terms outlined in the "Acknowledgement & Disclaimer" notice, available in the rules below.

iv. The buyer must provide relevant supporting information, such as connection to the island of Ireland, and proof of commercial/personal identity. Please see section 3.1 for further information.

v. Once the IEDR has verified the new domain holder’s eligibility to hold the domain, the buyer will be provided with an authcode, which is valid for 90 days from the date of issue, and acts as confirmation that they are eligible to hold the domain, provided the seller decides to complete the sale.

vi. This authcode should then be provided to the seller.

Procedure for the Seller

i. Contact your Registrar and ask to open a “registrant transfer” request, agreeing to the updated registrant terms and conditions.

ii. Obtain your buyer’s authcode, and supply this to your Registrar.

Once the authcode is entered into your request, the domain will enter a 3-day countdown period during which time it will be locked. The WHOIS facility will be updated with the new domain holder details once the process has completed.

3.6.2 Rules

Rules for the Buyer

i. The buyer must submit their authentication/purchase request through the Registrar managing the domain, and must pay the applicable fees.

ii. The buyer must provide their understanding of, and agreement to, the “Acknowledgement & Disclaimer”, which requires that,

a) any transfer of a right to use is conditional on the buyer complying with IEDR’s Registration and Naming Policy,

b) there is a risk of non-authentication if IEDR’s Registration & Naming Policy is not complied with,
c) if any payment is made by the buyer for the right to use the domain prior to authentication being granted by IEDR, this is at the Buyer’s own risk,

d) they (the buyer) will not make a claim against IEDR if they are not authenticated by IEDR (including, but not limited to, circumstances where they have entered into any agreement to purchase, or conditional agreement to purchase, with any seller).

Rules for the Seller

i. The seller must submit their request through their current Registrar, and pay the applicable fees.

ii. The seller must accept the updated terms and conditions, agreeing:

   a) that any transfer of a right to use to a third party is conditional on the buyer complying with IEDR registration terms and conditions,

   b) that there is a risk of non-authentication if IEDR’s Registration and Naming Policy is not complied with,

   c) that the seller is required to provide an ‘Acknowledgement & Disclaimer’ to the buyer, in order to participate in any sale process,

   d) not to sell or procure/receive any payment or consideration for the right to use unless the buyer has provided the “Acknowledgement & Disclaimer” to the seller,

   e) to place an obligation on themselves to provide the IEDR with the Acknowledgement & Disclaimer that has been provided by the buyer, and to not complete any sale unless this has been provided to the IEDR.

   f) to acknowledge that it will not bring any claim against IEDR if the potential buyer is not authenticated by IEDR (including, but not limited to, circumstances where Seller has entered into any agreement to purchase, or conditional agreement to purchase, with any Buyer).

   g) to indemnify the IEDR if any of above steps are breached, or if the buyer brings a claim against IEDR arising from any failure or delay by IEDR in providing authentication.

iii. The transfer must be completed using the authcode and ticketing system.

3.6.3 Guidelines on documents required

i. Requests should be submitted through the Registrar currently managing the domain.

ii. Fees for buyer authentication are non-refundable under any circumstances.

iii. Buyers will need to provide documentation/information demonstrating their connection to the island of Ireland and proof of commercial/personal identity, as required. See section 3.1 for further information.

iv. Please ensure that funds are not exchanged for the domain, until you are sure that you are eligible to hold the domain name.

v. Once the 3-day countdown period begins, the domain cannot be edited.

vi. If a domain is in NRP, locked, or has an active WIPO dispute in process, the registrant transfer cannot be completed until this has been resolved.
4. Legal Requirements

4.1. Liability and Indemnity

The IE Domain Registry Company Limited by Guarantee (IEDR) acts as naming authority as a public service neutrally and in good faith subject to the following conditions:

i. The holder of a domain name shall indemnify the IEDR and its servants or agents and shall hold the IEDR and its servants or agents harmless from and against any loss, damage, liability, claim or expense resulting from a claim or claims asserted by a third party regarding the licensing of or the right to use the domain name in question.

ii. No liability shall attach to the IEDR or its servants or agents in respect of any loss or damage whatsoever suffered by the applicant or a service provider and arising from any action or neglect on the part of the IEDR or its servants or agents in the exercise of the function of the naming authority.

iii. The domain holder accepts that failure to pay the renewal fees will result in the deactivation of the domain name.

iv. The domain holder agrees to the resolution of disputes in respect of the domain name applied for in accordance with IEDR’s Dispute Resolution Policy, but that this is without prejudice to any and all rights they have in the name applied for and shall not prevent any party to the proceeding from submitting the dispute to a court of law for independent resolution at any time.

v. The IEDR, as manager of the .ie namespace, has the sole authority for granting the right of use for all .ie domains, and with this, the right to reject an application as outlined in the registration rules.

4.2. Disputes

i. The registration or renewal of a domain name at any time, whether before or after the coming into force of the Dispute Resolution Policy shall be subject to that policy. The IEDR will implement a Panel Decision made under the Dispute Resolution Policy in so far as it reasonably can.

ii. Registrants must participate in the administrative proceedings conducted by the IEDR, or organisations accredited by the IEDR for handling disputes, if they wish to demonstrate their case for retaining the right to use the domain name registered to them. If they fail to successfully defend their right to a domain, it may either be transferred to the complainant, or cancelled, without refund of fees.

iii. The IEDR, its directors, members, agents, employees and representatives shall not be liable to a registrant or any other person for any loss or damages (whether or not foreseeable) including special, indirect, exemplary, punitive or consequential damages resulting from loss of use, lost business revenue, lost profits or third party damages arising in any way from: the application of the Dispute Resolution Policy or any rules of procedure adopted or applied there under or any decision or resulting action taken on foot of a decision of a Panel.

Information on the Dispute Resolution Policy and Process is available on the IEDR website at https://www.iedr.ie/dispute-resolution/
5. Technical Notes

The following notes are provided for informational purposes, in relation to IEDR’s procedure for checking "availability" and "reachability":

Nameservers

i. When all the other requirements for a valid registration or modification have been verified, and the request has been "accepted" by Registration Services, the nameserver details are checked by IEDR’s automated DNS checking system.

The IEDR makes the necessary entries in the DNS zone file, and tests the DNS provided in the request to verify that they are reachable and correctly configured.

ii. If the nameserver checks fail, the request will nevertheless complete, and an email notification will be sent daily to the Technical Contact listed for the domain, advising that they need to correct the issue.

iii. Outgoing mail from the sub-domain must satisfy the requirements of RFC-822. In particular, header lines in messages must not include any address either consisting only of a username ("local part" in RFC-822 terminology) or containing a partially qualified domain name.
6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Definitions

Administrative Proceeding
If a party (the complainant) believes that a .ie domain has been wrongly registered to another party (the domain holder), then the complainant can dispute this by opening a case (an administrative proceeding) against the current registration. This is done through the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), using the Dispute Resolution Policy. Further information is available https://www.iedr.ie/dispute-resolution/.

Available
.ie domains not currently registered, and which have no pending live application for registration, are considered available.

Claim
No longer relevant – An historic registration requirement, whereby all (future) .ie domain holders were required to show that they held a valid reason for wanting to use the domain they were applying for. This was removed following the completion of the 10-step .ie Policy Development Process in March 2018.

Connection with the island of Ireland
(Future) domain holders must show that they have a real, and verifiable connection to the island of Ireland. Depending on the type of applicant, there are a variety of ways of showing this connection.

For example, individuals could provide proof of Irish Citizenship or residency within the 32 counties of the island of Ireland.

Trading bodies registered in the island of Ireland can show this connection with their VAT or Company Registration Number.

Trading bodies registered outside of the island of Ireland could show their connection through a number of ways, including holding a fully registered Irish or EU Community trademark, or being able to show trade with clients or an established business address in the island of Ireland.

Where a (future) domain holder is unable to show this connection, they are refused the right to use a .ie domain.

Console
This is the IEDR’s online registration and domain management system.
Contacts

- **Administrative Contact**
  The legal representative of the domain holder who has been authorised to issue instructions or requests in relation to the .ie domain name. This person is the primary point of contact for automated emails relating to the registration of the .ie domain and its renewal. The Administrative Contact can also process nameserver changes for the domain, and authorise modifications to the registration (e.g. domain holder re-assignment, billing transfers etc.).

  The Administrative Contact must be any staff member of the domain holding body, or its legal representative.

  Where a domain is registered to an individual, the Administrative Contact role must be filled by the domain holder or his/her representative.

  Where a domain is registered to a partnership, the Administrative Contact role(s) must be filled by up to two of the partners, or their legal representatives.

- **Technical Contact**
  This role can be filled by anyone chosen by the Administrative Contact or Billing Contact. The Technical Contact is granted access to the IEDR Console for the purposes of submitting nameserver changes.

- **Billing Contact**
  The Billing Contact is the party responsible for payment of registration and renewal fees, as chosen by the domain holder.

**Domain Holder**

This is the party who has been granted the right to use the proposed .ie domain name.

**Naming Authority**

The IE Domain Registry CLG (IEDR) is responsible for the management of the .IE namespace, and as such, is the naming authority for all .ie domains; i.e. the IEDR has the right to grant the use of .ie domain names to parties who can meet our registration requirements.

**Nameservers**

These are used to host a website. For example, the nameservers that host iedr.ie include ns0.iedr.ie, ns2.iedr.ie. .IE domains require that a minimum of two nameservers are provided with each request for registration, and these must be configured in accordance with Industry Best Practices set out in RFC protocols 1034 and 1035, and with authoritative zones to host the domain in question.

**Reachable**

The domain registration must have a point of contact where email requests for information can be sent, and should have correctly configured hosting information.

**Registrant**

The holder of the Domain Name whose Personal Data will be placed in the WHOIS database if the Domain Name is granted. It has the same meaning as Registered User or Domain Holder.
Ticket
Ticket means the electronic request for the registration or modification of a .ie domain, and is opened through the IEDR Console or API systems.

Ticket Duration
Ticket Duration means the validity period of a ticket after its submission; which is 27 calendar days.

Valid
A domain which follows the Registration and Naming Policy and rules (e.g. is available, includes acceptable terminology etc.).

Well managed
The domain is hosted with valid DNS information and the applicable renewal fees are paid when they are due.