

11 February 2024

Re: Timeline to Respond to Urgent Requests for Disclosure of Domain Name Registration Data (Proposed Registration Data Policy for gTLDs, EPDP Phase 1 Implementation)

Ashley Heineman  
Chair  
Registrar Stakeholder Group

Cc: Sally Costerton, Interim President & CEO, ICANN

Dear Ashley,

Thank you for your [letter](#) of 8 September 2023 to offer additional context and advise the Board regarding urgent requests for disclosure of domain registration data in the Registration Data Policy.

At the Board's direction, ICANN org has worked with a multistakeholder Implementation Review Team (IRT) since 2019 to draft requirements based on the recommendations of the [Expedited Policy Development Process \(EPDP\) Phase 1](#). As the policy recommendations explicitly left the timeline for urgent requests for disclosure of data to be worked out in implementation, ICANN org facilitated the development of the relevant requirements with the assistance of the Implementation Review Team.

The Board appreciates the Registrar Stakeholder Group's (RrSG) support of the policy implementation work and the compromises it offered to produce the proposed policy language. The Board has reviewed the policy background for the timeline to respond to urgent requests for disclosure of domain name registration data and discussed it extensively. After discussion, the Board concluded that it is necessary to revisit Policy Recommendation 18 concerning urgent requests in the context of situations that pose an imminent threat to life, serious bodily harm, infrastructure, or child exploitation, and the manner in which such emergencies are currently handled. For this, we believe that consultation with the GNSO Council is required.

In the Board's review and discussion of the criteria and response timeline for urgent requests for disclosure, we have taken note of the registrars' role and responsibilities in facilitating appropriate responses, and appreciate the input in your letter as indeed helpful to that consideration. The Board understands the sensitivities around emergency situations and recognizes the difficulty of creating a single rule that is appropriate for each such case. The Board notes with appreciation the RrSG's statement that "registrars are committed to responding to Urgent requests in the most swift and expeditious manner possible."

The Board would like to avoid further delay in the implementation of the foundational Registration Data Policy that specifies all transactional requirements. The Board noted the Registrars Stakeholder Group (RrSG) expressed its support at ICANN78 of the proposal to have the Registration Data Policy move forward while we pursue further work on the urgent request issue.

As you may know, the IRT also discussed this approach at the [ICANN78 Public Meeting](#), and supported it as the best course of action. With IRT support, the [GNSO Liaison to the IRT wrote](#) to the GNSO Council to inform them of this approach and asked the GNSO Council to consider the matter of urgent requests in its work.

Therefore, the Board has directed the implementation team to proceed with the process of publishing the Registration Data Policy, excluding the criteria and response timeline for urgent requests for disclosure.

I thank the RrSG members for their long-standing engagement and collaboration with the community on these important issues and their continuing support to the policy implementation work.

Sincerely,



Tripti Sinha  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors