

11 December 2018

RE: Importance of access to WHOIS data post-GDPR

Nick Wood
Council member, MARQUES
Vice Chair, MARQUES Cyberspace Team

Dear Mr. Wood,

Thank you for your letter dated 22 October 2018. It has been posted to ICANN's correspondence page [here](#). I appreciate your concerns regarding access to non-public WHOIS data for brand owners and the public at large. Your input regarding ICANN's approach to developing a possible unified access model will be considered as we move forward with this work.

As you may have noted in recent [communications](#), ICANN org is also exploring technical implementation approaches that would put ICANN at the center of requests for non-public data. However, the technical solution that is being developed is not intended to create a centralized WHOIS, rather it is to find an access model that will lower the risk for contracted parties. Creation of any centralized WHOIS model would clearly be policy work for the community.

You may have also noted in my 8 November 2018 [blog](#) that I have asked Ram Mohan, as the former Security and Stability Advisory Committee liaison to the ICANN Board, to coordinate a Technical Study Group on Access to Non-Public Registration Data. We will share more information about this group – to which we plan to invite representatives from gTLD registries and ICANN-accredited registrars – in the coming weeks. The description of ICANN's approach to designing a central hub for access is still open for discussion and we have not yet determined how credentialing, among other issues, could be addressed.

In parallel, ICANN org is continuing discussions with European data protection authorities, including the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) to determine whether the approaches we are pursuing are in line with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation. Our engagement with the EDPB aims to determine, to the extent possible, if the community's consensus policy, as well as the possible access model, are in line with the GDPR. This work is not intended to replace the multistakeholder policy development process, but to inform it.

I welcome your continued engagement in these important topics and urge you to follow the latest developments on our Data Protection/Privacy Issues [page](#).

Sincerely,



Göran Marby
President and Chief Executive Officer
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)