ANNEX A
January 30, 2017

VIA E-MAIL

ICANN Board Governance Committee  
c/o Chris Disspain, ICANN BGC Chair  
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094

Mr Göran Marby  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
ICANN  
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094

Dear President Marby and members of the BGC:

We are writing on behalf of our client, DotMusic Limited ("DotMusic"), to remind ICANN about the Board Governance Committee’s (the “BGC”) delay in making a final recommendation to the ICANN Board (the “Board”) regarding DotMusic’s Reconsideration Request 16-5 ("Reconsideration Request"). Over 11 months have passed since DotMusic submitted the Reconsideration Request to the BGC, however, the BGC has not made a final recommendation to the Board with respect to DotMusic’s Reconsideration Request. This is inconsistent with the BGC’s obligation under ICANN’s Bylaws to review a reconsideration request on a timely basis. Specifically,

- Under Section 4.2(q) of ICANN’s Bylaws (October 1, 2016): “The Board Governance Committee shall make a final recommendation to the Board with respect to a Reconsideration Request within 30 days following its receipt of the Ombudsman's evaluation (or 30 days following receipt of the Reconsideration Request involving those matters for which the Ombudsman recuses himself or herself or the receipt of the Community Reconsideration Request, if applicable), unless impractical, in which case it shall report to the Board the circumstances that prevented it from making a final recommendation and its best estimate of the time required to produce such a final recommendation. In any event, the Board Governance Committee shall endeavor to produce its final recommendation to the Board within 90 days of receipt of the Reconsideration Request.” (emphasis added); see also Section 4.2(q) of ICANN’s Bylaws (May 27, 2016) (same); and
• Under Article IV(2)(16) of ICANN’s Bylaws (February 11, 2016): “The Board Governance Committee shall make a final determination or a recommendation to the Board with respect to a Reconsideration Request within thirty days following its receipt of the request, unless impractical, in which case it shall report to the Board the circumstances that prevented it from making a final recommendation and its best estimate of the time required to produce such a final determination or recommendation.” (emphasis added); see also Article IV(2)(16), ICANN’s Bylaws (July 30, 2014) (same).

The BGC has been provided with substantial evidence for making a final recommendation on DotMusic’s Reconsideration Request: (1) DotMusic has submitted extensive materials to assist the BGC in assessing DotMusic’s Reconsideration Request, including multiple independent expert opinions prepared by renowned experts in the music industry, such as an independent joint expert opinion by Dr. Noah Askin and Dr. Joeri Mol and independent expert opinions by Honorary Professor Dr. Jorgen Blomqvist and Dr. Richard James Burgess; and (2) DotMusic made a lengthy telephonic presentation to the BGC on September 17, 2016, and gave the BGC ample opportunity to seek additional information or clarifications from DotMusic during the presentation.

Likewise, we understand that: (1) on September 17, 2016, the Board directed “the President and CEO, or his designee(s) to undertake an independent review of the process by which ICANN staff interacted with the CPE provider, both generally and specifically with respect to the CPE reports issued by the CPE provider” (“Independent Review”); and (2) on October 18, 2016, the BGC requested “from the CPE provider the materials and research relied upon by the CPE panels in making their determinations with respect to the pending CPE reports” (“Request for Information from the CPE Provider”). DotMusic has not received any communication from ICANN regarding the status of the Independent Review or Request for Information from the CPE Provider. The BGC cannot (and should not) rely on these processes to delay DotMusic’s application.

Accordingly, we request an immediate update about the status of: (1) DotMusic’s Reconsideration Request 16-5 and the BGC’s best estimate of the time it requires to make a final recommendation on DotMusic’s Reconsideration Request; (2) the Independent Review; and (3) Request for Information from the CPE Provider.

We look forward to receiving a response from you.
DotMusic reserves all of its rights at law or in equity before any court, tribunal, or forum of competent jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Arif Hyder Ali
28 April 2017

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Göran Marby  ICANN Board of Directors
President and Chief Executive Officer c/o Steve Crocker, Chair
ICANN  12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300  Los Angeles, CA 90094
Los Angeles, CA 90094

Re: Dot Music Reconsideration Request concerning .MUSIC

Dear President Marby and Members of the Board:

We write on behalf of our client, DotMusic Limited (“DotMusic”), to inquire when the ICANN Board Governance Committee (the “BGC”) will issue its final decision on DotMusic’s Reconsideration Request 16-5 regarding the .MUSIC top-level domain (the “Reconsideration Request”).¹ We further write to protest ICANN’s lack of transparency in its treatment of DotMusic’s application and ICANN’s failure to provide any sort of response to DotMusic’s various inquiries about the status of its application.

DotMusic submitted its Reconsideration Request more than one year ago and nearly seven months have passed since DotMusic delivered a presentation to the BGC. As we noted in our most recent correspondence of 30 January 2017, we find ICANN’s protracted delays in reaching a decision on DotMusic’s Reconsideration Request and ICANN’s continued lack of responsiveness to DotMusic’s inquiries about the status of our request a clear

¹ Reconsideration Request 16-5 (24 February 2016), https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/reconsideration-16-5-dotmusic-request-2016-02-25-en
violation of ICANN’s commitments to transparency enshrined in its governing documents.\(^2\)

Further, it is our understanding that ICANN is conducting “an independent review of the process by which ICANN staff interacted with the community priority evaluation provider, both generally and specifically with respect to the CPE reports issued by the CPE provider”\(^3\) and that the BGC may have requested from the CPE provider “the materials and research relied upon by the CPE panels in making their determinations with respect to the pending CPE reports.”\(^4\)

DotMusic wrote three months ago to ICANN seeking the disclosure of the identity of the individual or organization conducting the independent review (“evaluator”) and informing ICANN that it had not received any communication from the independent evaluator.\(^5\) Both of these requests remain unaddressed.

ICANN has not provided any details as to how the evaluator was selected, what its remit is, what information has been provided, whether the evaluator will seek to consult with the affected parties, etc. Moreover ICANN Board Members have stated in public fora that the independent review “[...](...) has been happening for a little while. We don't have an actual date for completion yet.”\(^6\) While ICANN Board members have indicated that ICANN would post an update as to the status of the review following ICANN 58 in March 2017, no such

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\(^3\) Resolution of the ICANN Board 2016.09.17.01, President and CEO Review of New gTLD Community Priority Evaluation Report Procedures (17 September 2016), https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2016-09-17-en#1.a.

\(^4\) Minutes of the Board Governance Committee (18 October 2016), https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/minutes-bgc-2016-10-18-en.

\(^5\) Letter from Arif Ali to Göran Marby, ICANN President and CEO, and the ICANN Board of Directors (30 January 2017)

update has been provided. Further, ICANN’s refusal to disclose the identity of the individual(s) carrying out the review raises the risk of conflicts of interest. Such a conflict would undermine ICANN’s stated purpose of restoring trust and confidence to the CPE process, and call into question the validity of any resultant report to ICANN’s Board. ICANN should therefore disclose the identity of the independent evaluator and its method of selection without further delay.

ICANN’s refusal to disclose the scope of the review violates its Bylaw commitment to procedural fairness and transparency. DotMusic has no assurance that the reviewer will take into account DotMusic’s extensive submissions in any report prepared for ICANN’s Board.

DotMusic’s rights are thus being decided by a process about which it: (1) possesses minimal information; (2) carried out by an individual or organization whose identity ICANN is shielding; (3) whose mandate is secret; (4) whose methods are unknown; and (5) whose report may never be made public by ICANN’s Board. The exclusion of directly affected parties from participation eerily reproduces the shortcomings of the EIU evaluations that are under scrutiny in the first place.

With this letter, we renew our request that ICANN extend DotMusic, and the global music community that has supported its community application, a response to its inquiries regarding the anticipated resolution of DotMusic’s Reconsideration Request.

Further, we request disclosure of information about the nature of the independent review ICANN apparently has commissioned regarding the Economist Intelligence Unit’s handling of community priority evaluations. In this regard, we request ICANN to provide, forthwith, the following categories of information:

1. The identity of the individual or agency ("evaluator") undertaking the review.

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7 ICANN Bylaw Art.I § 3 “Making decisions by applying documented policies neutrally and objectively, with integrity and fairness.” ICANN Bylaw Art.III § 3 “ICANN and its constituent bodies shall operate to the maximum extent feasible in an open and transparent manner and consistent with procedures designed to ensure fairness.”
2. The selection process, disclosures, and conflict checks undertaken in relation to the appointment.

3. The date of appointment of the evaluator.

4. The terms of instructions provided to the evaluator.

5. The materials provided to the evaluator by the EIU.

6. The materials provided to the evaluator by ICANN staff/legal, outside counsel or ICANN’s Board or any subcommittee of the Board.

7. The materials submitted by affected parties provided to the evaluator.

8. Any further information, instructions or suggestions provided by ICANN and/or its staff or counsel to the evaluator.

9. The most recent estimates provided by the evaluator for the completion of the investigation.

ICANN must immediately ensure that the evaluator communicates with DotMusic as part of the evaluation process in order to afford DotMusic the fundamental due process right to be heard and treated fairly. We reserve the right to request further disclosure based on ICANN’s prompt provision of the above information. We are unaware of any rule of law, administrative procedure or corporate governance that would justify ICANN’s silence or withholding of information.

DotMusic reserves all of its rights at law or in equity before any court, tribunal, or forum of competent jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Arif Hyder Ali
Partner
cc: Krista Papac, ICANN Complaints Officer (krista.papac@icann.org)
ANNEX C
5 May 2017

VIA E-MAIL DIDP@ICANN.ORG

ICANN
c/o Steve Crocker, Chairman
Goran Marby, President and CEO
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90094

Re: Request under ICANN’s Documentary Information Disclosure Policy concerning Community Priority Evaluation for .MUSIC Application ID 1-1115-14110

Dear ICANN:

This request is submitted under ICANN’s Documentary Information Disclosure Policy by DotMusic Limited (“DotMusic”) in relation to ICANN’s .MUSIC Community Priority Evaluation (“CPE”). The .MUSIC CPE Report found that DotMusic’s community-based Application should not prevail. DotMusic is investigating the numerous CPE process violations and the contravention of established procedures as set forth in DotMusic Reconsideration Request 16-5 (“RR”).

ICANN's Documentary Information Disclosure Policy (“DIDP”) is intended to ensure that information contained in documents concerning ICANN's operational activities, and within ICANN's possession, custody, or control, is made available to the public unless

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1 DotMusic's .MUSIC community Application (ID 1-1115-14110), https://gtldresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus/applicationdetails/1392; Also See https://gtldresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus/applicationdetails:download application/1392?t:ac=1392


3 See https://icann.org/resources/pages/reconsideration-16-5-dotmusic-request-2016-02-25-en
there is a compelling reason for confidentiality.\textsuperscript{4} In responding to a request submitted pursuant to the DIDP, ICANN adheres to its \textit{Process for Responding to ICANN’s Documentary Information Disclosure Policy (DIDP) Requests}.\textsuperscript{5} According to ICANN, staff first identifies all documents responsive to the DIDP request. Staff then reviews those documents to determine whether they fall under any of the DIDP’s Nondisclosure Conditions.

According to ICANN, if the documents do fall within any of those Nondisclosure Conditions, ICANN staff determines whether the public interest in the disclosure of those documents outweighs the harm that may be caused by such disclosure.\textsuperscript{6} We believe that there is no relevant public interest in withholding the disclosure of the information sought in this request.

\textbf{A. Context and Background}

DotMusic submitted its RR 16-5 to ICANN more than one year ago. Moreover, nearly seven months have passed since DotMusic delivered a presentation to the Board Governance Committee (the “BGC”). DotMusic has sent several correspondence to ICANN noting that ICANN’s protracted delays in reaching a decision on DotMusic’s RR and ICANN’s continued lack of responsiveness to DotMusic’s inquiries about the status of DotMusic’s request represent a clear and blatant violation of ICANN’s commitments to transparency enshrined in its governing documents.

It is our understanding that ICANN is conducting “an independent review of the process by which ICANN staff interacted with the community priority evaluation provider, both

\textsuperscript{4} See ICANN DIDP, https://icann.org/resources/pages/didp-2012-02-25-en


\textsuperscript{6} Id.
generally and specifically with respect to the CPE reports issued by the CPE provider”7 and that the BGC may have requested from the CPE provider “the materials and research relied upon by the CPE panels in making their determinations with respect to the pending CPE reports.”8

However, ICANN has not provided any details as to how the evaluator was selected, what its remit is, what information has been provided, whether the evaluator will seek to consult with the affected parties, etc. Thus, on April 28, 2017, DotMusic specifically requested that ICANN disclose the identity of the individual or organization conducting the independent review and investigation and informed ICANN that it has not received any communication from the independent evaluator.9

Immediately following the Dechert letter submission to ICANN on April 28, 2017, DotMusic received a letter from ICANN’s BGC Chair Chris Disspain (“BGC Letter”) indicating that the RR is “on hold” and inter alia that:10

The BGC decided to request from the CPE provider the materials and research relied upon by the CPE panels in making determinations with respect to certain pending CPEs. This will help inform the BGC’s determinations regarding certain recommendations or pending Reconsideration Requests related to CPE. This material is currently being collected as part of the President and CEO’s review and will be forwarded

7 Resolution of the ICANN Board 2016.09.17.01, President and CEO Review of New gTLD Community Priority Evaluation Report Procedures, September 17, 2016, https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2016-09-17-en#1.a

8 Minutes of the Board Governance Committee, October 18, 2016, https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/minutes-bgc-2016-10-18-en


to the BGC in due course. The review is currently underway. We recognize that ensuring we fulfill all of our obligations means taking more time, but we believe that this is the right approach. The review will complete as soon as practicable and once it is done, the BGC, and Board where appropriate, will promptly consider the relevant pending Reconsideration Requests. Meanwhile, the BGC’s consideration of the following Reconsideration Requests is on hold: 14-30 (.LLC), 14-32 (.INC), 14-33 (.LLP), 16-3 (.GAY), 16-5 (.MUSIC), 16-8 (.CPA), 16-11 (.HOTEL), and 16-12 (.MERCK).

However, the BGC Letter does not transparently provide any meaningful information besides that there is a review underway and that the RR is on hold.

**B. Documentation Requested**

The documentation requested by DotMusic in this DIDP includes all of the “material currently being collected as part of the President and CEO’s review” that has been shared with ICANN and is “currently underway.”

Further, DotMusic requests disclosure of information about the nature of the independent review that ICANN has commissioned regarding the Economist Intelligence Unit’s handling of community priority evaluations. In this regard, we request ICANN to provide, forthwith, the following categories of information:

1. The identity of the individual or firm (“the evaluator”) undertaking the Review;

2. The selection process, disclosures, and conflict checks undertaken in relation to the appointment;

3. The date of appointment of the evaluator;

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4. The terms of instructions provided to the evaluator;

5. The materials provided to the evaluator by the EIU;

6. The materials provided to the evaluator by ICANN staff/legal, outside counsel or ICANN’s Board or any subcommittee of the Board;

7. The materials submitted by affected parties provided to the evaluator;

8. Any further information, instructions or suggestions provided by ICANN and/or its staff or counsel to the evaluator;

9. The most recent estimates provided by the evaluator for the completion of the investigation; and

10. All materials provided to ICANN by the evaluator concerning the Review

DotMusic reserves the right to request further disclosure based on ICANN’s prompt provision of the above information.

C. Conclusion

There are no compelling reasons for confidentiality in disclosing the requested documents; rather, full disclosure will serve the global public interest and ensure the integrity of ICANN’s deliberative and decision-making process concerning the CPE process. On the other hand, ICANN’s failure to provide this information would raise serious questions concerning ICANN’s accountability and compromise the transparency, independence and credibility of such an independent review.
Sincerely,

[Signature]

Arif Hyder Ali
Partner

cc: Krista Papac, ICANN Complaints Officer (krista.papac@icann.org)
    Herb Waye, ICANN Ombudsman (herb.waye@icann.org)
ANNEX D
To: Arif Ali on behalf of DotMusic Limited

Date: 4 June 2017

Re: Request No. 20170505-1

Thank you for your request for documentary information dated 5 May 2017 (Request), which was submitted through the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Documentary Information Disclosure Policy (DIDP) on behalf of DotMusic Limited (DotMusic). For reference, a copy of your Request is attached to the email transmitting this Response.

Items Requested

Your Request seeks the disclosure of the following documentary information relating to the Board initiated review of the Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) process:

1. The identity of the individual or firm undertaking the Review;
2. The selection process, disclosures, and conflict checks undertaken in relation to the appointment;
3. The date of appointment of the evaluator;
4. The terms of instructions provided to the evaluator;
5. The materials provided to the evaluator by the EIU;
6. The materials provided to the evaluator by ICANN staff/legal, outside counsel or ICANN’s Board or any subcommittee of the Board;
7. The materials submitted by affected parties provided to the evaluator;
8. Any further information, instructions or suggestions provided by ICANN and/or its staff or counsel to the evaluator;
9. The most recent estimates provided by the evaluator for the completion of the investigation; and
10. All materials provided to ICANN by the evaluator concerning the Review

Response

Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) is a method to resolve string contention for new gTLD applications. CPE occurs if a community application is both in contention and elects to pursue CPE. The evaluation is an independent analysis conducted by a panel from the CPE provider. The CPE panel’s role is to determine whether a community-based application fulfills the community priority criteria. (See Applicant Guidebook, § 4.2; see also, CPE webpage at http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/cpe.) As part of its process, the CPE provider reviews and scores a community applicant that has elected CPE against the following four criteria: Community Establishment; Nexus between Proposed String and
Community; Registration Policies, and Community Endorsement. An application must score at least 14 out of 16 points to prevail in a community priority evaluation; a high bar because awarding priority eliminates all non-community applicants in the contention set as well as any other non-prevailing community applicants. (See id.)

At various times in the implementation of the New gTLD Program, the ICANN Board has considered aspects of the CPE process. Recently, the Board discussed certain concerns that some applicants have raised with the CPE process, including issues that were identified in the Final Declaration from the Independent Review Process (IRP) proceeding initiated by Dot Registry, LLC. (See Dot Registry IRP Final Declaration at https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/irp-dot-registry-final-declaration-redacted-29jul16-en.pdf.) The Board decided it would like to have some additional information related to how the ICANN organization interacts with the CPE provider, and in particular with respect to the CPE provider's CPE reports. On 17 September 2016, the Board directed the President and CEO, or his designee(s), to undertake a review of the process by which the ICANN organization has interacted with the CPE provider. (See https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2016-09-17-en.)

Further, as Chris Disspain, the Chair of the Board Governance Committee, stated in his letter of 26 April 2017 to concerned parties, during its 18 October 2016 meeting, the BGC discussed potential next steps regarding the review of pending Reconsideration Requests pursuant to which some applicants are seeking reconsideration of CPE results. Among other things, the BGC noted that certain complainants have requested access to the documents that the CPE panels used to form their decisions and, in particular, the independent research that the panels conducted. The BGC decided, as part of the President and CEO’s review, to request from the CPE provider the materials and research relied upon by the CPE panels in making determinations with respect to certain pending CPEs to help inform the BGC’s determinations regarding certain recommendations or pending Reconsideration Requests related to CPE.

As described in the Community Priority Evaluation Process Review Update, dated 2 June 2017, in November 2017, FTI Consulting, Inc.’s (FTI) Global Risk and Investigations Practice (GRIP) and Technology Practice was chosen to assist in the CPE review following consultation with various candidates. FTI was selected because it has the requisite skills and expertise to undertake this investigation. FTI’s GRIP and Technology Practice teams provide a multidisciplinary approach to business-critical investigations, combining the skill and experience of former prosecutors, law enforcement officials and regulators with forensic accountants, professional researchers, anti-corruption investigators, computer forensic, electronic evidence and enterprise data analytic specialists. On 13 January 2017, FTI signed an engagement letter to perform the review.

As described in the Community Priority Evaluation Process Review Update, dated 2 June 2017, the scope of the review consists of: (1) review of the process by which the
ICANN organization interacted with the CPE provider related to the CPE reports issued by the CPE provider; (2) review of the consistency in which the CPE criteria were applied; and (3) review of the research process undertaken by the CPE panels to form their decisions and compilation of the reference materials relied upon by the CPE panels to the extent such reference materials exist for the evaluations which are the subject of pending Reconsideration Requests.

The review is being conducted in two parallel tracks. The first track focuses on gathering information and materials from the ICANN organization, including interviews and document collection. This work was completed in early March 2017. The second track focuses on gathering information and materials from the CPE provider. This work is still ongoing. FTI is currently waiting on responses from the CPE provider related to the requests for information and documents. The CPE provider is seeking to provide its responses to the information requests by the end of the week and is currently evaluating the document requests. Once the underlying information and data collection is complete, FTI anticipates that it will be able to inform ICANN of its findings within two weeks. (See Community Priority Evaluation Process Review Update, dated 2 June 2017.)

**Items 1 – 4**

Items 1 through 4 seek the disclosure of the identity of the individual or firm undertaking the Review (Item 1), “[t]he selection process, disclosures, and conflict checks undertaken in relation to the appointment” (Item 2), the date of appointment (Item 3), and the terms of instructions provided to the evaluator (Item 4). The information responsive to these items were provided in the Community Priority Evaluation Process Review Update and above. With respect to the disclosures and conflicts checks undertaken in relation to the selection of the evaluator, FTI conducted an extensive conflicts check related to the ICANN organization, the CPE provider, ICANN’s outside counsel, and all the parties that underwent CPE.

**Items 5-6**

Items 5 and 6 seeks the disclosure of the materials provided to the evaluator by the CPE provider (Item 5) and materials provided to the evaluator by ICANN staff/legal, outside counsel or ICANN’s Board or any subcommittee of the Board (Item 6). As detailed in the Community Priority Evaluation Process Review Update, the review is being conducted in two parallel tracks. The first track focuses on gathering information and materials from the ICANN Organization, including interviews and document collection. This work was completed in early March 2017. As part of the first track, ICANN provided FTI with the following materials:

- New gTLD Applicant Guidebook, [https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb](https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb)
- CPE reports, [https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/cpe#invitations](https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/cpe#invitations)
With the exception of the correspondence between the ICANN organization and the CPE provider regarding the evaluations, all materials provided to the evaluator are publicly available. Regarding the internal correspondence between the ICANN organization and the CPE provider, these documents are not appropriate for disclosure for the same reasons identified in ICANN’s response to the DIDP previous submitted by DotMusic Limited. Rather than repeating those here, see Response to DIDP Request No. 20160429-1, https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/didp-20160429-1-dotmusic-
The second track of the review focuses on gathering information and materials from the CPE provider. As noted Community Priority Evaluation Process Review Update of 2 June 2017, this work is still ongoing. FTI is currently waiting on responses from the CPE provider related to the requests for information and documents.

**Item 7**
Item 7 seeks “[t]he materials submitted by affected parties provided to the evaluator.” It is unclear what the term “affected parties” is intended to cover. To the extent that the term is intended to reference the applicants that underwent CPE, FTI was provided with the following materials submitted by community applicants:

- All CPE reports, [https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/cpe#invitations](https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/cpe#invitations)
- Reconsideration Requests related to CPEs and all related materials, including BGC recommendations or determinations, Board determinations, available at [https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/accountability/reconsideration-en](https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/accountability/reconsideration-en), and the applicable BGC and Board minutes and Board briefing materials, available at [https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/2017-board-meetings](https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/2017-board-meetings)
- All public comments received on the applications that underwent evaluation, which are publicly available at [https://gtldresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus](https://gtldresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus) for each respective application

**Items 8**
Item 8 seeks the disclosure of “[a]ny further information, instructions or suggestions provided by ICANN and/or its staff or counsel to the evaluator.” This item overlaps with Items 4 and 5. The information responsive to the overlapping items has been provided in response to Items 4 and 5 above.

**Item 9**
Item 9 asks for an estimate of completion of the review. The information responsive to this item has been provided Community Priority Evaluation Process Review Update of 2 June 2017. ICANN anticipates on publishing further updates as appropriate.

**Item 10**
Item 10 requests the disclosure of “[a]ll materials provided to ICANN by the evaluator concerning the Review.” As noted, the review is still in process. To date, FTI has provided ICANN with requests for documents and information to ICANN and the CPE provider. These documents are not appropriate for disclosure based on the following applicable DIDP Defined Conditions of Non-Disclosure:
• Internal information that, if disclosed, would or would be likely to compromise the integrity of ICANN's deliberative and decision-making process by inhibiting the candid exchange of ideas and communications, including internal documents, memoranda, and other similar communications to or from ICANN Directors, ICANN Directors' Advisors, ICANN staff, ICANN consultants, ICANN contractors, and ICANN agents.

• Information exchanged, prepared for, or derived from the deliberative and decision-making process between ICANN, its constituents, and/or other entities with which ICANN cooperates that, if disclosed, would or would be likely to compromise the integrity of the deliberative and decision-making process between and among ICANN, its constituents, and/or other entities with which ICANN cooperates by inhibiting the candid exchange of ideas and communications.

• Information subject to the attorney-client, attorney work product privilege, or any other applicable privilege, or disclosure of which might prejudice any internal, governmental, or legal investigation.

• Drafts of all correspondence, reports, documents, agreements, contracts, emails, or any other forms of communication.

Notwithstanding the applicable Defined Conditions of Nondisclosure identified in this Response, ICANN also evaluated the documents subject to these conditions to determine if the public interest in disclosing them outweighs the harm that may be caused by such disclosure. ICANN has determined that there are no circumstances for which the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the harm that may be caused by the requested disclosure.

About DIDP

ICANN’s DIDP is limited to requests for documentary information already in existence within ICANN that is not publicly available. In addition, the DIDP sets forth Defined Conditions of Nondisclosure. To review a copy of the DIDP, please see http://www.icann.org/en/about/transparency/didp. ICANN makes every effort to be as responsive as possible to the entirety of your Request. As part of its accountability and transparency commitments, ICANN continually strives to provide as much information to the community as is reasonable. We encourage you to sign up for an account at ICANN.org, through which you can receive daily updates regarding postings to the portions of ICANN's website that are of interest. We hope this information is helpful. If you have any further inquiries, please forward them to didp@icann.org.
ANNEX E
26 April 2017

Re: Update on the Review of the New gTLD Community Priority Evaluation Process

Dear All Concerned:

At various times in the implementation of the New gTLD Program, the ICANN Board has considered aspects of the Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) process. Recently, we discussed certain concerns that some applicants have raised with the CPE process, including issues that were identified in the Final Declaration from the Independent Review Process (IRP) proceeding initiated by Dot Registry, LLC. The Board decided it would like to have some additional information related to how ICANN interacts with the CPE provider, and in particular with respect to the CPE provider's CPE reports. On 17 September 2016, we asked that the President and CEO, or his designee(s), undertake a review of the process by which ICANN has interacted with the CPE provider. (Resolution 2016.09.17.01)

Further, during our 18 October 2016 meeting, the Board Governance Committee (BGC) discussed potential next steps regarding the review of pending Reconsideration Requests pursuant to which some applicants are seeking reconsideration of CPE results. Among other things, the BGC noted that certain complainants have requested access to the documents that the CPE panels used to form their decisions and, in particular, the independent research that the panels conducted. The BGC decided to request from the CPE provider the materials and research relied upon by the CPE panels in making determinations with respect to certain pending CPEs. This will help inform the BGC's determinations regarding certain recommendations or pending Reconsideration Requests related to CPE. This material is currently being collected as part of the President and CEO's review and will be forwarded to the BGC in due course.

The review is currently underway. We recognize that ensuring we fulfill all of our obligations means taking more time, but we believe that this is the right approach. The review will complete as soon as practicable and once it is done, the BGC, and Board where appropriate, will promptly consider the relevant pending Reconsideration Requests.
Meanwhile, the BGC's consideration of the following Reconsideration Requests is on hold: 14-30 (.LLC), 14-32 (.INC), 14-33 (.LLP), 16-3 (.GAY), 16-5 (.MUSIC), 16-8 (.CPA), 16-11 (.HOTEL), and 16-12 (.MERCK).

For more information about CPE criteria, please see ICANN's Applicant Guidebook, which serves as basis for how all applications in the New gTLD Program have been evaluated. For more information regarding Reconsideration Requests, please see ICANN's Bylaws.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Chris Disspain
Chair, ICANN Board Governance Committee
ANNEX F
May 15, 2017

VIA E-MAIL

Arif H. Ali, Esq.
Dechert LLP
1900 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-1110

Re: DotMusic Limited

Dear Arif:

I write to provide you with a status update on Reconsideration Request 16-5 (Request 16-5) filed by DotMusic Limited (DotMusic) in response to the questions that you have raised to ICANN including in your correspondence to the ICANN Board, the Board Governance Committee (BGC), and/or the President and CEO of ICANN.\footnote{See letter from A. Ali to ICANN Board and Göran Marby, 30 Jan. 2017, available at https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/alito-marby-bgc-30jan17-en.pdf and letter from A. Ali to BGC and Göran Marby, 28 Apr. 2017, available at https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/alito-marby-28apr17-en.pdf.}

and December 2016, DotMusic submitted five supplemental materials in support of Request 16-5.5

The Board has recently discussed certain concerns that some applicants have raised with the CPE process, including issues that were identified in the Final Declaration from the Independent Review Process (IRP) proceeding initiated by Dot Registry, LLC. The Board has directed the President and CEO to undertake a review of various aspects of the CPE process.6 The details of this review are discussed in the 26 April 2017 letter from Chris Disspain, Chair of the BGC, to DotMusic, among others.7 A copy of Mr. Disspain’s letter has been published on the ICANN correspondence page8 and on the Reconsideration page under Request 16-5.9 As Mr. Disspain explained in his letter, the CPE review is currently underway and will be completed as soon as practicable. The Board’s consideration of Request 16-5 is currently on hold pending completion of the review. Once the CPE review is complete, the Board will resume its evaluation of Request 16-5, and will take into consideration all relevant materials.

Your letter of 30 January 2017 references the timing requirements for the Board’s consideration of Reconsideration Requests prescribed by the Bylaws and posits that the Board’s consideration of Request 16-5 has been delayed past the prescribed time. The Bylaws in effect at that time that Request 16-5 was filed provides that “[t]he Board shall issue its decision on the recommendation of the Board Governance Committee within 60 days of receipt of the Reconsideration Request or as soon thereafter as feasible. Any circumstances that delay the Board from acting within this timeframe must be identified and posted on ICANN’s website.”10 The circumstances that have delayed the Board’s consideration of Request 16-5, which are described above, have been identified and posted on ICANN’s website and on the


6 See https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2016-09-17-en#1.a.


8 See id.

9 See https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/reconsideration-16-5-dotmusic-request-2016-02-25-en.

10 ICANN Bylaws, Art. IV, Section 2.17, effective 11 Feb. 2016, available at https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/bylaws-2016-02-16-en#IV.
Reconsideration page under Request 16-5.\textsuperscript{11} As stated in Mr. Disspain’s 26 April letter, the Board will resume its consideration as soon as feasible once the CPE review is complete.\textsuperscript{12}

With respect to the questions that you pose on pages 3-4 of your 28 April 2017 letter regarding the CPE review, we note that the same questions were submitted to ICANN’s DIDP by DotMusic on 5 May 2017 and will be addressed as part of ICANN’s response to the DIDP in due course.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey A. De Vee

cc: John O. Jeffrey
General Counsel and Secretary
ICANN


ANNEX G
21 May 2017

VIA E-MAIL

Jeffrey A. LeVee, Esq.
Jones Day
555 South Flower Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071 2300

Re: ICANN 15 May 2017 Letter Concerning DotMusic

Dear Jeffrey A. LeVee:

I write on behalf of DotMusic Limited (DotMusic), in response to your 15 May 2017 letter. Your letter claims that the “circumstances that have delayed the Board’s consideration of Request 16-5 . . . have been identified and posted on ICANN’s website and on the Reconsideration page under Request 16-5.”

We do not consider ICANN’s delays justified.

In addition, while we appreciate your assurance that ICANN will consider the entirety of DotMusic’s submissions and reports, we note that your letter fails to provide any information that was not already public. Regrettably, ICANN continues to breach its transparency obligations, ignoring DotMusic’s information requests concerning the review process currently being conducted by an independent evaluator. Particularly, ICANN has ignored the basic safeguards that DotMusic has proposed, inter alia, that the identity of the evaluator be disclosed; that DotMusic be provided access to the materials being reviewed by the evaluator; and that DotMusic’s right to be heard during the evaluation process and comment on the evaluation results be given full effect.


Mr. Roussos of DotMusic also raised these questions at the recent Madrid GDD summit and learned that ICANN’s leadership was unaware of the identity of the external evaluator except that it was a law firm. Mr. Disspain also disclosed that the completion of the evaluation had been delayed beyond ICANN’s estimates and ICANN does not have a scheduled date for completion. It is clear that the delays and secrecy are thus impairing ICANN’s Board from discharging their oversight responsibilities. Withholding materials concerning DotMusic’s CPE evaluation does not merely result in a denial of DotMusic’s right to be heard; it also hampers the efficiency of the investigation, by disabling us from being able to identify the flaws in the EIU’s results.

We urge ICANN to reconsider whether continuing a pattern of secrecy and neglect to the right of applicants to fair treatment serves either ICANN’s or the global music community’s best interests. ICANN should provide a full and prompt response to our letters of 30 January and 28 April 2017.

Sincerely,

Arif Hyder Ali
Partner

cc: Krista Papac, ICANN Complaints Officer (krista.papac@icann.org)

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ANNEX H
10 June 2017

VIA E-MAIL

Chris Disspain  Jeffrey A. LeVee, Esq.
Chair, ICANN Board Governance  Jones Day
Committee  555 South Flower Street
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300  Los Angeles, CA 90071 2300
Los Angeles, CA 90094

Re: ICANN’s 2 June 2017 Community Priority Evaluation Process Review Update

Dear Messrs. Disspain and LeVee:

We write on behalf of our clients, DotMusic Limited (“DotMusic”) and dotgay LLC (“dotgay”), regarding ICANN’s 2 June 2017 Community Priority Evaluation Process Review Update (“CPE Process Review Update”).

Our review of ICANN’s CPE Process Review Update confirms that ICANN is in violation of its commitments to operate transparently and fairly under its bylaws.1 As you are aware, after the ICANN Board announced in September 2016 that it is conducting “an independent review of the process by which ICANN staff interacted with the community priority evaluation provider, both generally and specifically with respect to the CPE reports issued by the CPE provider,”2 we sent multiple requests to ICANN seeking, among others, the disclosure of the identity of the organization conducting the independent review, the organization’s remit, the information it had been provided,

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1 See e.g., Art. III, Section 3.1, ICANN Bylaws, effective 11 February 2016 (“ICANN and its constituent bodies shall operate to the maximum extent feasible in an open and transparent manner and consistent with procedures designed to ensure fairness”); Art. I, Section 2 (8) (“Make decisions by applying documented policies neutrally and objectively, with integrity and fairness”).

2 Resolution of the ICANN Board, 17 Sept. 2016 (emphasis added).
whether the evaluator will seek to consult with the affected parties, etc.\textsuperscript{3} In fact, at one of the sessions during the ICANN GDD Madrid Summit Meeting, Constantine Roussos, the Founder of DotMusic, directly asked the ICANN CEO, Staff and Chair of the BGC Chris Disspain to disclose the name of the independent investigator retained by ICANN to review the CPE Process. However, no one from ICANN disclosed any information about the independent investigator.\textsuperscript{4} At the same GDD Madrid Summit Meeting, DotMusic also made the same inquiry with the ICANN Ombudsman Herb Waye. The ICANN Ombudsman stated that ICANN also did not disclose the name of the independent investigator to him, despite DotMusic’s formal complaint with the Ombudsman that, inter alia, requested such information to be disclosed in a transparent and timely manner. ICANN continued to operate under a veil of secrecy; even Mr. Disspain’s 28 April 2017 letter and Mr. LeVee’s 15 May 2017 letter, failed to provide any meaningful information in response to our requests.

It was only on 2 June 2017—after DotMusic and dotgay filed their requests for documentary information\textsuperscript{5} and \textit{two weeks} before the investigator’s final findings are due to ICANN—that ICANN issued the CPE Process Review Update. We now understand that ICANN selected FTI Consulting, Inc. (“FTI”) seven months ago in November 2016 to undertake a review of various aspects of the CPE process and that FTI has \textit{already} completed the “first track” of review relating to “gathering information and materials from the ICANN organization, including interview and document collection.”\textsuperscript{6}

This is troubling for several reasons. \textbf{First}, ICANN should have disclosed this information through its CPE Process Review Update back in November 2016, when it first selected FTI. By keeping FTI’s identity concealed for several months, ICANN has failed its commitment to transparency: there was no open selection of FTI through the

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{4} ICANN Madrid GDD Summit, May 9, 2017.
  \item \textsuperscript{5} See Documentary Disclosure Information Policy (DIDP) Request 20170505-1 by Arif Ali on Behalf of DotMusic Limited.
  \item \textsuperscript{6} 2 June 2017 CPE Process Review Update.
\end{itemize}
Requests for Proposals process, and the terms of FTI’s appointment or the instructions given by ICANN to FTI have not been disclosed to the CPE applicants. There is simply no reason why ICANN has failed to disclose this material and relevant information to the CPE applicants. Second, FTI has already completed the “first track” of the CPE review process in March 2017 without consulting the CPE applicants. This is surprising given ICANN’s prior representations that the FTI will be “digging very deeply” and that “there will be a full look at the community priority evaluation.” Specifically, ICANN (i) “instructed the firm that is conducting the investigation to look thoroughly at the involvement of staff with the outside evaluators and outside evaluators’ approach to it, and they're digging in very deeply and [] trying to understand the complex process of the new gTLD program and the community priority evaluation process,” and that (ii) “when the Board Governance Committee and the board's discussions on it occurred, the request was that there be a full look at the community priority evaluation, as opposed to just a very limited approach of how staff was involved.”

Accordingly, to ensure the integrity of FTI’s review, we request that ICANN:

1. Confirm that FTI will review all of the documents submitted by DotMusic and dotgay in the course of their reconsideration requests, including all of the documents listed in Annexes A and B;

2. Identify ICANN employees, officials, executives, board members, agents, etc. who were interviewed by FTI for the purposes of completing its “first track” review;

3. Disclose the details of FTI’s selection process, including the Requests for Proposals process, and the terms under which FTI currently operates for ICANN; and

4. Confirm that ICANN will disclose FTI’s final report and findings to the CPE applicants, including DotMusic and dotgay, immediately after FTI completes its review.

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We remain available to speak with FTI and ICANN. We look forward to ICANN’s response to our requests by 15 June 2017.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Arif Hyder Ali
Partner

cc: Krista Papac, ICANN Complaints Officer (krista.papac@icann.org)
    Herb Waye, ICANN Ombudsman (ombudsman@icann.org)
# Annex A

## DotMusic Limited

### Key Documents

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### Other Relevant Documents

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