



Policy liberalisation – Removing the need to show the ‘claim to the name’

Frequently asked questions

1. Who is the IE Domain Registry CLG (IEDR)?

The IEDR is a not-for-profit company responsible for managing Ireland's namespace, dot ie.

Through this role, the IEDR verifies that anyone applying for a dot ie domain name has:

- i. a real and substantive connection to the island of Ireland (with a *proven* corporate / personal identity)
- ii. a claim to the domain name they wish to register

By verifying this information, the IEDR ensures that users of the dot ie namespace know who they are dealing with online.

2. What is changing?

The need to show a claim when registering a dot ie domain is being removed from the IEDR Registration and Naming Policy, (available at <https://www.iedr.ie/about-the-iedr/our-policies/>), retaining the requirement to prove a real and substantive connection to the island of Ireland.

3. Why is this change being made?

Anecdotally, IEDR has received feedback from **Irish** people and **Irish** companies remarking that the existing registration requirements have led to the perception that it is hard to get a dot ie domain.

The IEDR wants to ensure that Irish citizens and Irish companies are not disenfranchised, where they want to have an identifiably Irish website presence / email address, ending in dot ie (.ie), but believe that it is difficult to get one.

Secondly, IEDR wants to ensure that all applicants have a positive experience when registering a dot ie domain, and that they can get their website / email address registered quickly and easily.

4. How is claim checked by IEDR?

Under the current registration requirements, those applying for dot ie domains are required to show evidence of their connection to the island of Ireland, and claim to the domain name being applied for.

To meet the claim requirement, the party applying needs to explain how the domain relates to its intended use (e.g. business / blog name etc.).

It is important to note that the domain name doesn't have to reflect a registered company, trademark or business name, and any claim is acceptable provided that:

1. it doesn't breach any of the Registration and Naming rules outlined in the IEDR's Registration and Naming Policy,
2. the applicant can explain what the domain will be used for, and why they've chosen that particular domain.

5. Why has verification of the claim been considered difficult now, compared to the 1990's when the rules were put in place?

In recent years, it has become apparent that some claim information provided to the IEDR cannot be verified *in advance* of usage, particularly in cases where someone is registering a website name / email address for a new business, or for an upcoming blog or promotional campaign.

Today, clicks are more important than bricks. In the 1990's, a company would typically have had a bricks and mortar operation, before looking for an online website / email address. Today, businesses tend to set up an online presence *before* having a shop on Main Street.

Accordingly, the IEDR initiated a comprehensive review of the empirical data. The data was then analysed to determine if a valid need still exists to continue seeking claim information from those wishing to register dot ie domains.

The data showed that the claim requirement presented a delay to the registration process. A small, but significant, percentage of application tickets (average 10%) were still awaiting claim information at the time of application expiration.

6. What is the “use case” for the policy change?

There is a compelling ‘use case’ to remove the requirement for a claim to the name, while retaining the connection to Ireland. This case may be summarised as follows:-

- Develop the national resource (currently dis-enfranchised SMEs & citizens – they’re Irish but cannot get their desired personal name)
- Registrants favouring dot com due to changing customer expectations & behaviour - instant gratification (delays are unacceptable to millennials and, increasingly, silver surfers)
- Influencers are recommending dot com (easier, faster and global)
- Claim element is no longer an effective protection against cyber squatters
- Perception that dot ie is still hard to get
- (Incorrect) Perception that Registry won't allow someone else take “my name”
- It is no longer an acceptable policy to “reject all, except for...”
- International best practice would indicate a move to “accept all, except for...”
- In the absence of a business track record, it is increasingly difficult for staff of the national Registry to make a judgement call in assessing compliance with the claim requirement
- Following the legal maxim “hard cases make bad law”, the Registry should reassess whether a very small number of ‘bad actors’ should limit the domain name choices of the 90+% who are legitimate applicants

7. Will this damage the safety and security of the dot ie namespace?

The IEDR believes that removing the claim requirement will enhance the registration process, whilst having no significant impact on the integrity of the namespace, as only those with legitimate Irish connections, who can prove their identity, will be able to register dot ie domains.

8. Who will be affected by this change?

Anyone who wishes to register a dot ie domain, and who can show evidence of their connection to the island of Ireland and their identity, would be entitled to register **any** available dot ie domain they wish.

Therefore, all those who can meet these requirements will be able to get their website / email address registered without the delay associated with providing claim information.

9. When was the policy change request proposed and how was it reviewed?

The IEDR submitted a policy change request to its Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) on 27 April 2017. The proposal entered the Policy Development Process (PDP) for the dot ie namespace at that time.

The PAC considered the policy change request in line with the IEDR's 10-step Policy Development Process (PDP), which is outlined at <https://www.iedr.ie/p30/policy-development/>

Accordingly, once consensus-in-principle was found to exist amongst the PAC for the change, a Working Group was established to review the change request further, and a Public Consultation was held to determine if the Public were favourable to the change. After a favourable response to the change during the Public Consultation, the Working Group and PAC made formal recommendations to the IEDR Board of Directors for its implementation. The change was approved for implementation by the IEDR Board in November 2017.

10. What are the key steps in the Policy Development Process (PDP)?

There are 10 steps in the Policy Development Process. These are represented visually in the diagram on the IEDR website at <https://www.iedr.ie/p30/policy-development/>

The key steps are normally as follows:-

Policy Advisory Committee

Initially, the proposed policy change needs to be considered by the Policy Advisory Committee for the dot ie namespace, in accordance with the policy development framework.

Working Group

During this step in the process, a Working Group may be formed to research the proposal further, and to ensure that consideration is given to the potential benefits and challenges associated with the proposed change.

Public Consultation

If the Working Group and PAC have consensus-in-principle for the proposal, a public consultation period may then be held to ensure that the opinions of the wider Internet community can be taken into consideration during the decision making process.

Recommendations

If no serious objections are raised, the Working Group and PAC would then provide their formal recommendation for the implementation of the policy change to the IEDR's Board of Directors, who would then be asked for their approval for the policy change.

Tracking the proposal's progression

Updates relating to policy changes are communicated in the Minutes from the PAC's meetings which are available at <https://www.iedr.ie/p30/policy-development/> , and through the national press, and online technical blogs.

11. When will the claim requirement be removed?

The claim requirement will be removed in March 2018. Further updates will be made available at www.iedr.ie/liberalisation

12. What happens if someone registers a website / email address with my name or business name?

Dot ie domains are registered on a first come, first served basis to anyone who meets our registration requirements. Therefore, it is important to ensure that you register any available dot ie domain you need for your business etc., as this is the only way to ensure that no one else registers it.

With this change, anyone who can show evidence of their connection to Ireland will be entitled to register any dot ie domain name they wish, as long as it is available.

The IEDR offers a formal dispute process, which is adjudicated by the independent World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). Further information on this is available at <https://www.iedr.ie/dispute-resolution/>

13. As the manager of the national Registry, shouldn't the IEDR protect my personal name from those who could use it to defame or impersonate me online?

It is very rare that people engage in defamation or impersonation with domain names. They are more likely to do so via social media. Social media websites offer a more suitable platform for "fast and angry" remarks, as opposed to the more pre-meditated approach involved in registering (and paying for) a domain name and a website / email address. Also, the perpetrator could not do so anonymously, as the Registry requires any Registrant to provide proof of their identity, unlike the more popular social media websites.

The public good is better served by encouraging citizens to have a presence online:-

- Government Policy promotes citizens getting online, in line with the 'National Digital Strategy'. Related initiatives run by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Energy include the 'Getting Citizens Online Programme', which has since ended. It's successor programme, which is currently running, is the 'Digital Skills for Citizens Grant Scheme
- Limiting new registration to names on a passport / utility bill / driving licence etc. has been overly restrictive
- Citizens want to have an online presence with nicknames, short names, pet names, family trees etc.
- The "probability of occurrence" of defaming or impersonating an individual is very low
- The "expected impact" wouldn't warrant a continuing dis-enfranchisement of citizens and businesses
- Internationally, the online battle has moved from prevention (impossible) to mitigation & recovery (implementable, practical, and affordable).

14. What will IEDR do to ensure that risks are managed in a structured and professional way?

IEDR has undertaken an impact analysis to assess the potential impact of the policy change. The objective was to analyse the potential impact of the change on the dot ie namespace, the company, and its customers.

To ensure that risks are managed in a structured and professional way, the IEDR offers a suite of mechanisms for addressing disputes regarding dot ie domain registrations that arise. The Policy Advisory Committee is also currently considering the introduction of an Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy. This would ensure that disputes regarding a dot ie domain registration would be reviewed and resolved quickly.

15. What is registration abuse?

Registration abuse: usually includes:-

Cybersquatting, Front-running, Gripe sites, Deceptive and/or offensive domain names, Fake renewal notices, Names spinning, Pay per click, Traffic diversion, False affiliation, Cross TLD registrations scam, Domain kiting/tasting.

16. What is domain use abuse? Why is it a concern to Ireland Inc.?

The nature of domain abuses creates security and stability issues for the Registry, Registrars and Registrants, as well as users of the Internet in general. Some gTLDs define abusive use as the wrong or excessive use of power, position or ability.

Domain abuse: usually includes:-

- **Illegal or fraudulent actions:**
- **Spam:** The use of electronic messaging systems to send unsolicited bulk messages. The term applies to e-mail spam and similar abuses, such as instant messaging spam, mobile messaging spam, and the spamming of Websites and Internet forums. An example, for purposes of illustration, would be the use of email in denial-of-service attacks
- **Phishing:** The use of counterfeit web pages that are designed to trick recipients into divulging sensitive data such as usernames, passwords, or financial data
- **Pharming:** The redirecting of unknowing users to fraudulent sites or services, typically through DNS hijacking or poisoning
- **Wilful distribution of malware:** The dissemination of software designed to infiltrate or damage a computer system without the owner's informed consent. Examples include, without limitation, computer viruses, worms, key loggers, and Trojan horses
- **Fast flux hosting:** Use of fast-flux techniques to disguise the location of websites or other Internet services, or to avoid detection and mitigation efforts, or to host illegal activities. Fast-flux techniques use DNS to frequently change the location on the Internet to which the domain name of an Internet host or name server resolves
- **Botnet command and control:** Services run on a domain name that are used to control a collection of compromised computers or "zombies," or to direct denial-of-service attacks (DDoS attacks)
- **Distribution of child pornography**
- **Illegal Access** to other computers or networks: Illegally accessing computers, accounts, or networks belonging to another party, or attempting to penetrate security measures of another individual's system (often known as "hacking"). Also, any activity that might be used as a precursor to an attempted system penetration (e.g., port scan, stealth scan, or other information gathering activity)

17. What is the international practice to address domain use abuse? Where do they get their authority to act?

Some gTLDs reserve the right to deny, cancel or transfer any registration or transaction, or place any domain name(s) on Registry Lock, hold or similar status, that it deems necessary, in its discretion:

1. to protect the integrity and stability of the Registry
2. to comply with any applicable laws, government rules or requirements, requests of law enforcement, or any dispute resolution process
3. to avoid any liability, civil or criminal, on the part of the gTLD, as well as its affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, and employees
4. per the terms of the registration agreement
5. to correct mistakes made by the gTLD or any Registrar in connection with a domain name registration

These Registries are empowered to act in this manner by the terms and conditions of their Registry Registrar Agreement (RRA) with ICANN. TLDs generally have Registry Registrar agreements and a majority have Registrant agreements with terms and conditions of service.

18. Will dot ie have any policy-based controls over what names are registered?

Firstly, new registration applications will be subject to the policies of the dot ie namespace. Dot ie domains will be registered on a first come, first served basis to anyone who meets our registration requirements. We will still have the existing *general protections* in the IEDR [Registration and Naming Policy](#), which inter alia provide for the following:-

Section 3.1.2.1 – Rules: Exceptions

- i. 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.

Section 3.1.2.2

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

Section 3.1.2.6. Refusal of Registration

- i. Applications can be refused on the following grounds:
Acceptance of the registration request may lead to Administrative Proceedings

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

19. I already have a dot ie domain registered, what does this mean for me?

If you already have a dot ie domain registered, there will be no impact on your existing registration, as you have already shown that you meet our registration requirements when you initially applied for your domain name. You will retain the right to use the domain, if you pay the renewal fee for your domain, when it falls due.

If there are any other available dot ie domain names that you feel are important to your business etc., you can apply for these domains now, before the policy change is implemented, by providing your claim to the name.

Otherwise, when the policy change is implemented, you will be able to apply without the need to show a claim to the name.

20. Will dot ie have any legal controls over what names are registered, if the change is successful?

All Registrants of dot ie domain names are required to sign the [Registrant terms and conditions](#). These are legally enforceable terms of Service. These include *general protections* as follow in the extract below:-

Section 3 - Registration, placing on hold, revocation, termination

d) IEDR may terminate the registration of a Domain Name if the Registrant submits false, misleading or fraudulent information or documentation during the registration process or breaches any of the terms and conditions of the Domain Name registration as published by IEDR from time to time. In case of a breach of the terms and conditions, IEDR can send a reminder by e-mail to both the Registrar and the Registrant informing them that the registration will be terminated if the breach is not remedied within 14 days.

e) IEDR may terminate this Agreement if the Registrant breaches any of the terms and conditions of this Agreement and does not rectify such breach within 30 days of a request from IEDR that it does so.

f) In addition to the foregoing, IEDR may (but shall not be obliged to) transfer (in the circumstances set out in clause 6d), cancel or revoke, alter, or amend a Domain Name registration, place a Domain Name registration on hold or prevent its renewal, on any of the following grounds:

- (fii) if the Domain Name is used for any unlawful purpose;
- (fiii) in order to satisfy the requirement of a decision of a court, regulatory authority, act of government or decision of any dispute resolution authority or extra judicial body;
- (fiv) where the Domain Name is identical or confusingly similar to a name in respect of which a right is recognised or established by national or community;

- (fv) where the Domain Name is defamatory, racist or contrary to public policy;*
- (fvi) if the Domain Name has been registered by the Registrant without rights or legitimate Interest in the name;*
- (fvii) if the Domain Name has been registered or is being used in Bad Faith;*
- (fix) if IEDR reasonably believe that the changes to update the Register or to correct any error ambiguity or inaccuracy relating to the Domain Name registration (including an error in making the Domain Name available for registration or an error in a previous cancellation of the Domain Name) would make it more accurate;*
- (fxi) to carry out the decision an expert has made under the clause 10 dispute resolution process;*

g) *IEDR may cancel or place a Domain Name on hold by notifying the Registrant if the Domain Name is being used in a way that is likely to endanger any part of the Domain Name system or IEDR systems and internet connections.*

Section 5. Obligations of Registrant

Throughout the term of the registration of a Domain Name, the Registrant undertakes:

e) *to comply at all times with this Agreement, and in using each Domain Name for which it has a registration, it undertakes to comply with all applicable laws, regulatory requirements and additionally the rules of IEDR as published from time to time.*

21. What legal controls exist over dot ie domain name registrations?

The following extract is a sample of the legally enforceable terms and conditions (as taken from the IEDR Registrant terms and conditions at <https://www.iedr.ie/registrations-terms-and-conditions/>):-

Section 8. Representations and warranties, authority

- a.** *The Registrant represents and warrants during the term of registration of a Domain Name that:*
- 1. all statements made during the registration process and the term of the registration are true, complete and accurate;*
 - 2. registering the Domain Name and using the Domain Name will not infringe or otherwise violate the rights of a third party;*
 - 3. the Domain Name is not registered for and will not be used for an unlawful purpose;*
 - 4. the Domain Name is not used or will not be used in violation of any applicable laws or regulations, such as a name that helps to discriminate on the basis of race, language, sex, religion or political view;*
 - 5. the Domain Name is not contrary to public policy or morality (e.g. obscene or offensive names);*
 - 6. the Domain Name was not registered, without rights or Legitimate Interests in the Domain Name nor was it registered in Bad Faith nor will it be used in Bad Faith;*
 - 7. the Registrant is entitled to register the Domain Name and the Registrant has not registered the Domain Name in any way that fails to meet with any legal obligation the Registrant has.*

22. I am very concerned about personal names – why would someone else be interested in getting ‘my’ name, unless it was for suspicious reasons?

After undertaking an impact analysis, it was determined that abuse of personal name domain registrations was an unlikely scenario, as social media websites would be “easier, faster, better, wider in scope”, if someone did wish to engage in such activity.

Consideration was given, in particular, to the financial and time cost associated with registering a domain name, designing a website / setting up an email address, and purchasing a hosting package, which would be significant when compared to the free and immediate nature of social media websites. Also, featuring on Google search rankings takes time.

The IEDR also operates a number of protection mechanisms through which such concerns may be addressed:-

- IEDRs Registration & Naming rules still provide protection (as outlined above)
- IEDR Registrant terms & conditions (as outlined above)
- The PAC are reviewing the introduction of an Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy (registered in bad faith)

There are also legitimate reasons for registering a personal name domain name, other than the Registrant’s own name. These include –

- A family member, such as an Uncle / Aunt / Grandparents, purchasing as a present for kids
- A person may wish to register a domain name reflecting an abbreviated version of their own name

23. How will the IEDR address such personal domain name use abuses quickly, particularly to limit damage to a person’s reputation?

Currently, the IEDR has no responsibility for how the domain is used or for website content. Also, the IEDR cannot be an arbitrator of defamation or slander etc. as legal defamation is difficult to prove. In legal terms, an “honestly held view” is not defamation.

After undertaking an impact analysis, it was determined that abuse of personal name domain registrations was an unlikely scenario, as social media websites would be “better, easier, faster, wider in scope”, if someone did wish to engage in such activity.

Consideration was given, in particular, to the financial and time cost associated with registering a domain name, designing a website / setting up an email address, and purchasing a hosting package, which would be significant when compared to the free and immediate nature of social media.

There are a number of protection mechanisms in operation to address concerns of use abuse, including:-

- If severe, the offended party could seek an injunction / legal action
- Registry will respond to a Court Order or to a request from law enforcement
- The PAC is reviewing the introduction of an Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy (registered and used in bad faith)

24. Will the change to allow “any name you want” just facilitate phishing for a citizen’s bank and personal details - for example, www.onlineAIB.ie phishing for innocent AIB customers to give their details to a hacker?

This is a possibility; however, international research¹ shows that 80% of phishing is conducted by hackers and criminals, rather than by the Registrant of the domain name.

The same research shows that those who carry on phishing, and criminal activity, rarely use a brand name within the domain name. This is because brand managers are actively scanning for misuse of their brand names, and will quickly take legal action.

25. I am concerned about dropping the claim requirement, as it could damage the education sector in Ireland. What would prevent someone post policy change from registering www.DitLibrary.ie, for example?

Nothing - if a Registrant can show a real and substantive connection to Ireland, they will be able register any name they want.

However, it should be noted that this is possible under the current registration requirements, if the proposed Registrant can show their connection to Ireland, and provide a claim to the name, showing some reason why they want to register the domain and explaining what it will be used for.

The only way to ensure that no one else registers a domain you want or need is to register it yourself.

Given that the Registrant will have provided evidence of their connection to Ireland, contact information, and will have their name made publicly available on the WHOIS record to complete registration, a dispute could be launched through the following mechanisms:

- brand or IP infringement – dispute resolution process handled by WIPO
- breach of regulations – the relevant Regulatory Authority can co-operate with the IEDR through the Regulatory Authority Protocol
- registration abuses, lies, errors – proposed Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy
- Legal recourse - IEDR can provide contact information to law enforcement for the serving of legal papers
- General protection clauses in the Registrant terms & conditions (e.g. was domain registered in bad faith etc.).

26. What is the proposed Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy?

This proposal would enable the resolution of domain registration disputes quickly, and at a cheaper cost than that associated with the formal dispute resolution process (ie Dispute Resolution Policy).

27. Why would the Registry insert itself into a judgemental decision process (non-deterministic)? Shouldn’t this be avoided from the Registry’s point of view?

If there is a breach of the Registrant terms and conditions, or a policy infringement, then the Registry needs a rapid response mechanism to facilitate a complainant. An Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy has the potential to provide urgent relief to a valid complainant. It would be faster and cheaper than the formal dispute resolution process, which is operated by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). It can be more effective in mitigating damage than following a legal process through the Courts. Mediation on domain use abuses is more complex, and may require third party professional mediators.

¹ Marika Konings (2010) ‘Registration Abuse Policies Working Group Final Report’ ICANN

28. What would happen if someone with a grudge registers a domain solely to cause harm to a company / individual (e.g. companynamesucks.ie)?

With this change, the party registering the domain will still be required to show compliance with the IEDR's Registration and Naming Policy by providing evidence of their connection to the island of Ireland, and provide their contact information (which can be used for legal paper serving purposes).

Furthermore, under the IEDR's WHOIS Policy & Acceptable Use Policy, certain information about this Registrant would be publicly available on the IEDR's WHOIS search facility (available on <http://www.iedr.ie/>). As such, these requirements would likely act as a deterrent to such incidents arising.

Given that the Registrant will have provided evidence of their connection to Ireland, contact information, and have their name made publicly available on the WHOIS search facility to complete registration, a dispute could be launched through the following mechanisms:

- brand or IP infringement – dispute resolution process handled by WIPO
- breach of regulations – the relevant Regulatory Authority can co-operate with the IEDR through the Regulatory Authority Protocol
- registration abuses, lies, errors – proposed Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy
- Legal recourse - IEDR can provide contact information to law enforcement for the serving of legal papers
- General protection clauses in the Registrant terms & conditions (e.g. was domain registered in bad faith etc.).

29. What would happen if someone registers a domain that reflects a competitor's brand / trade name etc.?

It should be noted that competitors engage in such activities at present, particularly with regard to generic names, e.g. plumber.ie etc., and at times with brand specific names.

The registration could be disputed through the following mechanisms:

- brand or IP infringement – dispute resolution process handled by WIPO
- breach of regulations – the relevant Regulatory Authority can co-operate with the IEDR through the Regulatory Authority Protocol
- registration abuses, lies, errors – proposed Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy
- Legal recourse - IEDR can provide contact information to law enforcement for the serving of legal papers
- General protection clauses in the Registrant terms & conditions (e.g. was domain registered in bad faith etc.).

30. Could a right holder take legal action against the Registry (or Registrar) for registering a domain that contravenes his trademark / in bad-faith, etc.?

Many generic namespaces are currently in operation without any registration requirements, resulting in instant go-live of domain registrations immediately after their purchase. Domain disputes are not uncommon.

Intellectual Property (IP) holders, and their legal counsel, are usually well informed of the risks of failing to protect their brand name, and of the mechanisms through which a registration can be disputed, should the IP holder wish to do so.

With the launch of 1,200+ gTLDs in recent years, there has been a global trend towards reactive IP management (and protection), as opposed to proactive blanket protection of IP, as the costs associated with protection in each namespace are deemed to be cost prohibitive for IP holders.

Also, it should be noted that launching legal action against the Registry and Registrar involved in such a case would be particularly costly and time-consuming. Given the availability of other, more timely and cost-effective dispute mechanisms (ieDRP WIPO), the risk rating is "low" that the IEDR and / or the Registrar involved would have legal action taken against them for accepting the registration of a domain.

31. Will Charity applications be impacted by the policy change to remove the claim to the name?

With this change, Charities registered within the island of Ireland will still be eligible to avail of waived registration fees under the IEDR's Charity Policy.

32. If it is decided that a domain registration should be recalled / suspended etc., but a commercial venture / website / email address is already being supported by the domain, will a further appeals process be offered (at further cost etc.)?

Under the intended operation of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy, the existing Registrant will be given a designated timeframe for a right of response, during which time they will be invited to outline their position, and provide information showing that they have a legitimate registration / legitimate right to use the domain. No action would be taken against the domain registration during this time. In this context, there would be no need for a further dispute / appeal to be opened.

33. How will the IEDR stop the registration of domain names that are offensive or contrary to public policy or generally accepted principles of morality?

The current provisions within the rules of the IEDR's Registration and Naming Policy will continue to ensure that domain names that meet these criteria are not registered.

If a registered domain includes a protected identifier, such as a brand name, and the brand owner has not given their permission for the Registrant to hold the domain, the registration can be disputed with the World Intellectual Property Organisation under the Dispute Resolution Policy.

34. What action can the IEDR take where a dispute relates to website, and not the domain name itself?

The IEDR does not have responsibility for website content.

However, where there is an allegation of domain use abuse, or where a website hosted on a dot ie domain is alleged to contain illegal content (e.g. inciting hatred, incitement to murder, promoting illegal products and services, fraudulent impersonation or misrepresentation etc.), the IEDR has a number of mechanisms through which such allegations can be reviewed, and action taken against an offending site, if necessary.

These mechanisms include protocol arrangements with Government Agencies and Regulators, which ensure that the matter is investigated, the Registrant contacted and given the opportunity to explain their point of view, and action taken, if required.

The IEDR also responds to Court Orders, requests for information and takedown orders from the Court etc. The IEDR cooperates with An Garda Síochána investigations into illegal activity involving dot ie websites.

Clarifications added after the launch of the Public Consultation:-

35. Businesses protecting domains that relate to their activities / their current domain name.

Added 08/09/17

As referred to in questions 6 and 12 above, all dot ie domain names that aren't registered, are available to apply for, even if a similar dot ie domain name is already registered.

The IEDR does not 'hold' or restrict the registration of dot ie domains that are similar to ones that are already registered.

As such, if an available domain is similar to your own domain name, the only way to stop someone else (who meets our registration requirements) from getting it, is to register it yourself.

This is why it is so important for businesses that already have dot ie domains, to ensure that they protect all of the available domains they need.