



NOMINET

TACKLING ONLINE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

1ST NOVEMBER 2021 - 31ST OCTOBER 2022

Nominet operates at the heart of the UK internet infrastructure, responsible for running the .UK domain. We work with law enforcement agencies to help protect internet users from criminality online.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

When alerted by law enforcement agencies, we work quickly with our registrars to suspend domains in accordance with our [Criminal Practices Policy](#).



- 1 Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU)
- 2 Environment Agency (EA)
- 3 Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)
- 4 Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- 5 Metropolitan Police – Central Specialist Crime (MPCSC)
- 6 Ministry of Defence Police (MOD)
- 7 National Crime Agency (NCA)
- 8 National Food Crime Unit (NFCU)
- 9 National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB)
- 10 Office of Communications (Ofcom)
- 11 Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU)
- 12 Trading Standards (TS)
- 13 Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)
- 14 Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS)

RANGE OF LEGISLATION CITED FOR SUSPENSION REQUESTS:

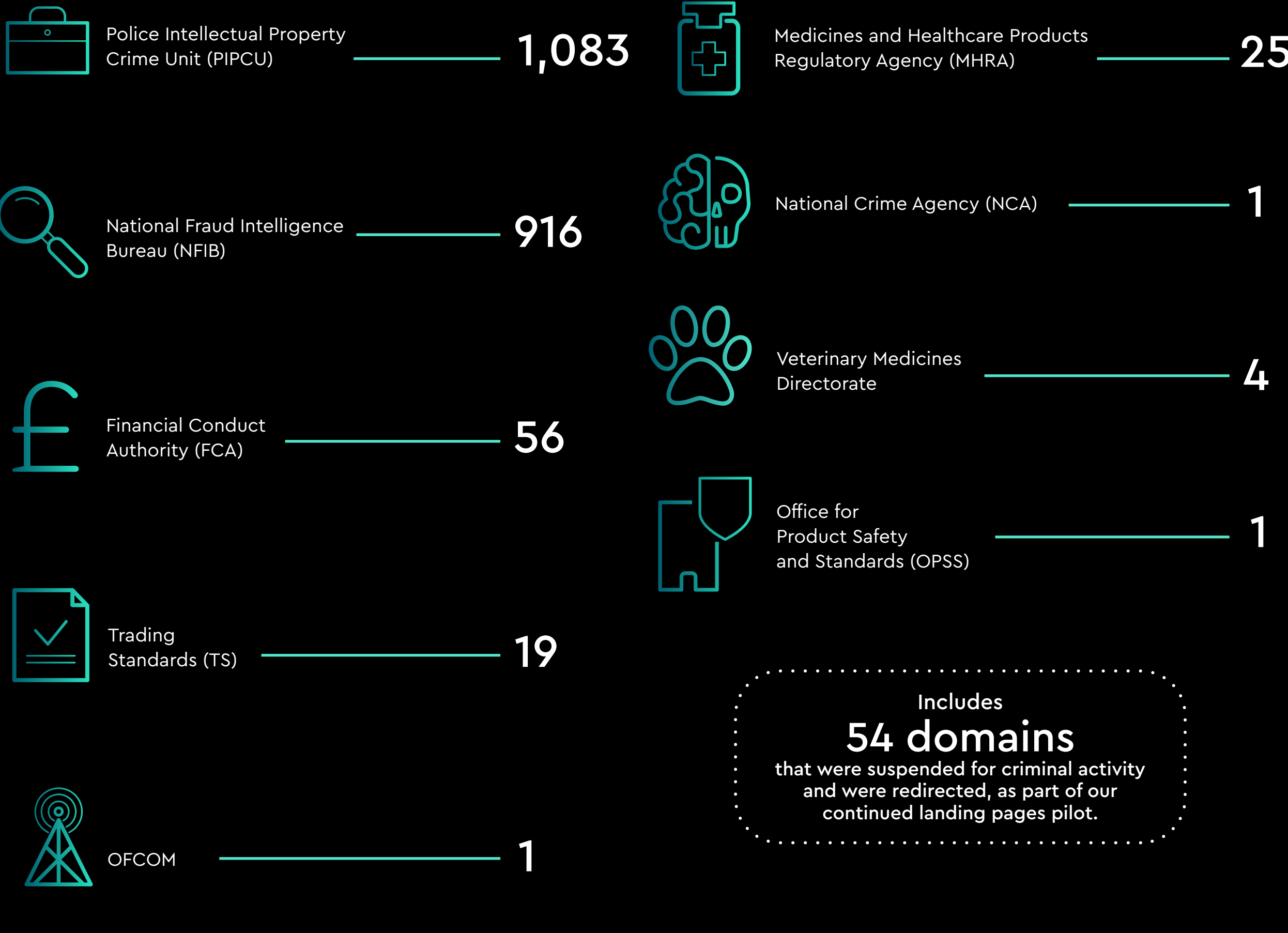
- Section 2(1) of the Fraud Act 2006
- Section 21 of FSMA
- Section 24 of FSMA
- Section 19 of FSMA
- Section 2(1) of the Fraud Act 2006; Section 327
- 328 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002
- Cancer Act 1939 Section 4(1)(a)
- Regulation 35 (4) of the Radio Equipment Regulations 2017
- Regulations 5/9 of The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008
- Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008; Regulation 10, 12 & Regulation 6



2,106

Domains suspended for criminal activity

BREAKDOWN OF SUSPENSIONS BY REPORTING AGENCY



Includes 54 domains that were suspended for criminal activity and were redirected, as part of our continued landing pages pilot.

HOW IT WORKS



Law enforcement agency notifies Nominet that a domain is being used for criminal activity

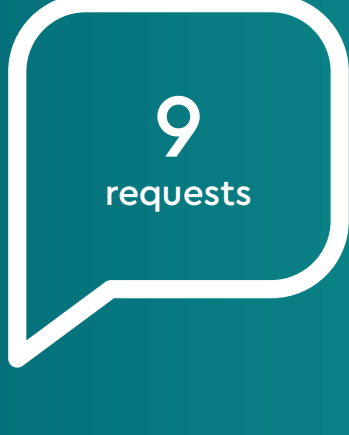


Nominet makes administrative checks



Nominet notifies the registrant and works with the registrant to suspend the domain

REQUESTS NOT RESULTING IN SUSPENSIONS



that didn't result in suspensions

A request may not result in a suspension for a number of reasons. For example, the domain may have already been suspended due to a parallel process, it may have already been transferred on a court order, or the registrant may have modified the website to make it compliant.

SUSPENSION REVERSALS



6 suspensions reversed

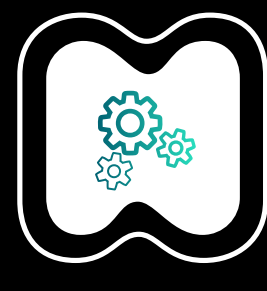
A suspension is reversed if the offending behaviour has stopped and the enforcing agency has since confirmed that the suspension can be lifted.

Data refers to domains suspended due to requests received during the specified period

PROSCRIBED TERMS

Nominet prohibits the registration of domain names that promote or incite serious sexual offences (where there is no reasonable or legitimate use for that domain) as part of our terms and conditions of domain registration. While 1118 potential breaches were flagged, no domains were suspended.

HOW IT WORKS



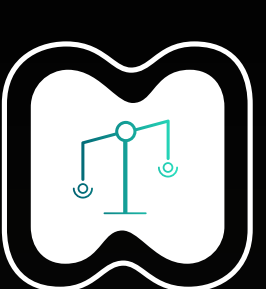
NEW REGISTRATIONS
New domain registrations are run through an automated process where potential breaches are flagged



EXISTING REGISTRATIONS
If Nominet receives a complaint about an existing domain name



Each flagged domain name is manually checked to ensure no false positives go through. If a domain name is in breach, the registrant and registrar are notified and the domain is suspended and blocked so that no one can register that domain in the future. Registrants have 30 days to request a review of this assessment



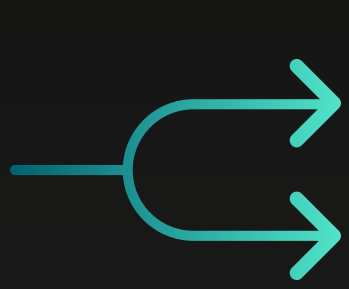
We advise that any complaints about website content and not the domain name should be referred directly to law enforcement

0 suspension requests from the Internet Watch Foundation on Child Sexual Abuse Images (CSAM) on .UK domains

LANDING PAGES PILOT

In November 2020 Nominet launched a Landing Page Pilot for domains that have been suspended for criminal activity. This directs consumers to a landing page providing real-time advice and information.

From 1st November 2020 to 31st October 2021 96 requests for landing pages were made by enforcement agencies with 687 suspended domains being redirected to landing pages.



From 1st November 2021 to 31st October 2022 53 requests for landing pages were made with 54 domains directed to landing pages.

FCA 27, MHRA 25, NCA 1

DOMAIN WATCH

Nominet's anti-phishing initiative is designed to quickly identify and suspend newly registered domains that are obvious phishing attempts.



5,005 domains suspended. Of which 612 were related to Covid-19

EXAMPLES OF DOMAINS SUSPENDED THROUGH DOMAIN WATCH:

- Private Sector:**
- yajhoo.co.uk
 - adidaas.co.uk
 - paypap.co.uk
 - barclys.co.uk
 - verginmedia.co.uk
 - gmail-support.uk
- Public Sector:**
- gsi-gov.uk
 - govtestandtracepass.co.uk
 - dvlagov.co.uk
 - dvlagov.co.uk
 - claim-rebate-secure.co.uk
 - wwwnhs.uk
- Examples of Covid Suspensions:**
- covid19casesinmyareagov.uk
 - covid-19testresultsonlinegov.uk
 - nhscovidpass.uk

THREAT FEEDS

This year we have expanded efforts to tackle abuse in .UK to include existing domain registrations that appear on threat feeds. Using third party data we have investigated 3219 domains, which were flagged as potential phishing, malware, fake webshops, C&Cs or cryptocurrency scams. Of these threat reports, 1108 led to domain suspensions.



1,108 domains suspended

To understand more about Nominet's collaboration with UK law enforcement, read our [Criminal Practices Policy](#), available at [nominet.uk/policies](#)