

This policy came into force from 1 September 2015.

WHOIS Address Opt Out

The WHOIS is available to everyone and in most cases shows the name of the registrant and their address details, as held on our register. It is, however, possible for some people to opt out from having their address shown in the WHOIS.

Who can opt out?

Domain name holders that are non-trading individuals can opt out of having their address details published on the WHOIS. This is a service that we provide to registrants for free.

In order to opt out of publishing your address on the WHOIS:

- i. You must be an individual (i.e. not a company, organisation, association etc); and,
- ii. The domain name must not be used:
 - a) to transact with customers (merchant websites); or
 - b) primarily to advertise or promote goods, services, or facilities.

In other words, if you are an organisation or a business you will not be able to opt out of showing your address in the WHOIS. If you are an individual, your domain must not be used to transact with customers (i.e. to take payments or arrange payment), nor must it be used primarily to advertise or promote goods, services or facilities.

If you are an individual and have more than one domain, it is possible for you to apply the address opt-out on a per domain basis. For example, you may have one domain used to write a blog and another which you use to accept payments for a service you provide. You can choose to opt out of publishing your address for the first domain name, but not the second.

Some examples:

If you are an individual and write a blog, and the main purpose of it is not commercial, but it has a small amount of pay-per-click links or a few links to commercial websites, then you will probably be eligible to opt out of publishing your address in the WHOIS. However if your blog is used primarily to advertise or promote goods, services or facilities – whether these are provided by you or a third party – your domain will not be eligible for the address opt-out.

If you are an individual and you have a domain that you registered in your name on behalf of a community group (e.g. a local parish church), where the domain name is used from time to time to promote fundraising activity but is predominantly used to provide information about the group, we would probably consider that to be eligible to opt out of the address being published in the WHOIS.

Domains that indicate that they are for sale or lease are also ineligible to be opted out as the purpose of the domain is for trading.

How can I opt out?

There are two ways to do this:

1. Contact your registrar (registration agent) and ask them to do it for you. If you do not know who your registrar is then you can check your domain name using the WHOIS to find out.
2. Alternatively, if you are an eligible registrant, you can log into your Nominet online account and select the opt-out button on the Account Summary page.

Incorrect address opt-out

If you believe a domain name is incorrectly opted out of the WHOIS you can make a [complaint](#). We will investigate all complaints to check compliance with our address opt out policy. If we uphold your complaint, the registrant's address for the domain name will be opted back in to the WHOIS.