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Alison Statham
Director General
The Anti-Counterfeiting Group

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Dear Alison

Thank you for your correspondence of 18 June regarding the impact of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on WHOIS data. You also wrote to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, on whose behalf I am also replying.

We recognise the importance of access to WHOIS data for purposes such as law enforcement, cybersecurity and intellectual property rights. This is a global issue and we are working closely with international partners to address it. In particular, as you note, we are working actively in ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) to press ICANN to develop and implement a new model for access to WHOIS data for users with a legitimate purpose.

We have secured strong, consensus advice from all governments in the GAC. We have also discussed the issues involved with the UK Information Commissioner's Office, which is actively involved in discussions between ICANN and the EU Data Protection Board to find a solution.

ICANN have now published proposals for a Unified Access Model, and we will play an active role in discussion on that at the meeting in Panama. I am grateful to you for the work you are doing to raise awareness of this issue and we will continue to press ICANN to push forward a solution as quickly as possible.

Best wishes
Margot

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