

24 January 2025

Government Chief Digital Officer
Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT)
Government of the United Kingdom

Disposition of the .GB country-code top-level domain

Dear Government Chief Digital Officer,

Thank you for your department's recent enquiry regarding the status of the .GB top-level domain.

IANA considers the code "UK" to be the sole representation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom) for the purposes of a country-code top-level domain (ccTLD) in ASCII (Latin) two-letter form.

Normal eligibility for ccTLDs is granted based on an assignment in the ISO 3166-1 standard. While the current two-letter assignment for the United Kingdom in this standard is "GB", on 20 December 1994 the United Kingdom Education and Research Networking Association (UKERNA) requested that IANA recognize "UK" instead of "GB" as the country-code top-level domain for the UK. IANA agreed to this request on several conditions, including that "GB" not be used and that IANA would reserve "GB" against any usage to avoid confusion.

The 1994 agreement to use "UK" instead of "GB" is recognized under current practices. Should there be a superseding ICANN approved policy that governs its use, or a change to recognition or coding of the United Kingdom in the ISO 3166-1 standard, we expect it would trigger a re-evaluation of this status quo.

With kindest regards,



Kim Davies
Vice President, IANA Services, ICANN
President, Public Technical Identifiers

cc: Simon Foster, Head of Protecting Public Sector Domains, DSIT
Martin Bowyer, Deputy Director, Securing Government Services, DSIT
Nigel Hickson, Head, DNS Internet Governance Policy, DSIT