

Dear Cherine,

The GNSO Council hereby acknowledges its receipt of your 27 August 2019 letter seeking the Council's views as to whether or not ICANN org "should grant an additional deferral of compliance enforcement for the Thick WHOIS Transition Policy" in response to a request submitted by Verisign.

As your letter notes, ICANN Org and the Implementation Review Team (IRT) are working to implement the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) Team's recommendations as adopted by the ICANN Board on 15 May 2019. This includes undertaking the work necessary to implement Recommendation #27, which requires that existing policies and procedures, including the Thick WHOIS Transition Policy, be updated to ensure consistency with the EPDP's recommendations.

The Council would like to take this opportunity to inform the Board that it intends to review the existing policies and procedures listed in Recommendation #27, including the Thick WHOIS Transition Policy, to begin the process of updating those policies and procedures to be consistent with the EPDP's recommendations, as required by Recommendation #27. The Council is still in the process of developing a work plan to address the impacted policies and procedures, but at this point in time, it is clear that the work by the IRT, and by the Council, to review these policies and procedures, including the Thick WHOIS Transition Policy, will extend beyond the current transition milestones noted in your correspondence.

With respect to the question posed in your letter, the Council would like to note that the request for further deferral of compliance enforcement of the Thick WHOIS Transition Policy is from an ICANN contracted party (as opposed to a request from a GNSO stakeholder group or constituency). Therefore, it is the Council's view that the matter is not within the purview of the GNSO Council and it is the responsibility of ICANN Org to make the ultimate determination of whether or not to grant the deferral, while the Council undertakes the policy review work described above.

Sincerely,

Keith Drazek, Pam Little, Rafik Dammak
GNSO Council Leadership