

Public Sector Information Domain Team Data Standards Working Group – Change Control Process

Annex B: Request for change to an existing GDS or proposal for a new GDS

To be completed by the business area raising the change request

<b>REQUEST FOR CHANGE TO AN EXISTING/NEW GOVERNMENT DATA STANDARD</b>	
<b>Unique change control reference number : 005</b>	
<b>Request for change/ development agreed by all internal stakeholders?</b> <b>NO</b>	
DEFINITION OF STANDARD	Internet Email Address – The string of characters that identifies an addressee’s post box on the Internet
REQUEST RAISED BY	John Donnelly
<p><b>REASON FOR PROPOSED CHANGE</b></p> <p>The current GDS Validation for the Email address string, that precedes the @domain name part of the address, does not conform to the recognised IETF Standard. The characters that are covered by the IETF Standard are: ! # \$ % &amp; ‘ * + - / = ? ^ _ ` {   } ~</p> <p>The characters allowed by the GDS are ‘ . - _</p> <p>As a result, Internet Email users with any of the IETF Standard characters contained in their Email address string, that are not included in the GDS, will not be able to communicate using their mail servers with Government Departments, and vice-versa.</p>	
<p><b>EXACT WORDING OF CHANGE REQUESTED</b></p> <p>The following comment needs to be inserted in the “Comment” box within the GDS:</p> <p>“It has been observed that a number of email service and application providers are not compliant with IETF RFC2822 particularly in the acceptance of all Special characters in the email address string prior to the @Domain Name e.g.</p> <p>~!"@#\$\$%&amp;"\ \)*+,-/;&lt;=&gt; ?[\ \ _ \{ } ^ £ €</p> <p>While it is the intention to move to being fully compliant with IETF RFC2822, until that time users with email addresses using special characters may experience validation issues.”</p>	
<p><b>IMPACT OF NOT MAKING THE CHANGE</b></p> <p>Inserting the proposed comment above within the GDS will clarify why difficulties could be experienced in electronically communicating with certain users.</p> <p>The lack of any comment to this effect would not help in explaining why issues are being experienced.</p>	
<p><b>AREA(S) AFFECTED BY CHANGE</b></p> <p>All</p>	
change request received by chair: 01.07.09	