
WIPO LIST OF NEUTRALS

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Mark DE BRUNNER
North Yorkshire
United Kingdom



Nationality: British

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

BA English (First Class Honours), University of London, London, United Kingdom, 1988;
HM Inspector of Taxes, Inland Revenue, 1993;
Major Projects Leadership Academy, University of Oxford/Saïd Business School, Oxford, United Kingdom, 2015.

LANGUAGES

English

PRESENT POSITION

Independent adjudicator and member of Nominet UK's Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) panel;
Member of the Expert Review Group, peer-reviewing draft decisions and sitting on appeal panels.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE PRESENT POSITION

Senior civil servant for some 20 years, with a range of policy, technical, operational and delivery roles at Inland Revenue/HMRC and then Cabinet Office;
More than 25 years making decisions in domain name disputes.

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL BODIES

FDA (formerly the First Division Association)

July 6, 2026

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Domain name disputes; intellectual property; administrative decision-making; dispute resolution.

EXPERIENCE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

More than 25 years' experience determining disputes involving registered and unregistered trade mark rights, goodwill, passing off, descriptive and generic terms, secondary meaning and related issues arising in the context of domain name registration and use. Since December 2025, member of the DRS Expert Review Group, responsible for peer review of draft decisions and forming part of the pool from which appeal panels are selected.

EXPERIENCE WITH RESPECT TO DOMAIN NAMES

Member of Nominet UK's Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) panel since its inception in 2001. Determined more than 160 domain name disputes as sole decision-maker and served on seven appeal panels. Appointed in December 2025 to the DRS Expert Review Group, providing peer review of decisions and forming part of the pool from which appeal panels are selected. Cases have covered a wide range of issues including unregistered rights, whether names are generic or distinctive and whether descriptive terms have acquired a secondary meaning.

EXPERIENCE IN COURT LITIGATION

Extensive experience dealing with contested legal issues arising from tax legislation and anti-avoidance provisions, including responsibility for litigation strategy and oversight of challenges to significant tax measures. Led oversight of team instructing counsel in relation to the contested application of a targeted anti-avoidance rule and the challenge that a key component of a tax contravened an EU "fundamental freedom".

EXPERIENCE IN ARBITRATION

More than 25 years' experience determining domain name disputes, many of them actively contested by parties who are legally represented, under Nominet UK's Dispute Resolution Service Policy. Appointed to the DRS Expert Review Group, responsible for peer review of expert decisions and from which appeal panel appointments are drawn. Extensive additional experience as a senior public sector decision-maker responsible for determining complex technical, legal and procedural issues.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN ARBITRATION

Part of continuing professional development.

EXPERIENCE IN MEDIATION

Considerable experience negotiating contract settlements to tax enquiries to settle tax disputes informally as an alternative to recovery and enforcement proceedings.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN MEDIATION

Part of continuing professional development.
