

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION

Robert Walters Holdings Limited v. Bob Dobalina
Case No. DAI2025-0064

1. The Parties

The Complainant is Robert Walters Holdings Limited, United Kingdom, represented by Barker Brettell LLP, United Kingdom.

The Respondent is Bob Dobalina, Austria.

2. The Domain Name and Registrar

The disputed domain name <robertwalters.ai> is registered with GoDaddy.com, LLC (the “Registrar”).

3. Procedural History

The Complaint was filed with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the “Center”) on November 27, 2025. On November 27, 2025, the Center transmitted by email to the Registrar a request for registrar verification in connection with the disputed domain name. On December 2, 2025, the Registrar transmitted by email to the Center its verification response disclosing registrant and contact information for the disputed domain name which differed from the named Respondent (not identified/Registrant Private, Domains By Proxy, LLC) and contact information in the Complaint. The Center sent an email communication to the Complainant on December 9, 2025, providing the registrant and contact information disclosed by the Registrar, and inviting the Complainant to submit an amendment to the Complaint. The Complainant filed an amendment to the Complaint on December 11, 2025.

The Center verified that the Complaint together with the amendment to the Complaint satisfied the formal requirements of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the “Policy” or “UDRP”), the Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the “Rules”), and the WIPO Supplemental Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the “Supplemental Rules”).

In accordance with the Rules, paragraphs 2 and 4, the Center formally notified the Respondent of the Complaint, and the proceedings commenced on December 11, 2025. In accordance with the Rules, paragraph 5, the due date for Response was December 31, 2025. The Respondent did not submit any response. Accordingly, the Center notified the Respondent’s default on January 5, 2026.

The Center appointed Evan D. Brown as the sole panelist in this matter on January 7, 2026. The Panel finds that it was properly constituted. The Panel has submitted the Statement of Acceptance and Declaration of Impartiality and Independence, as required by the Center to ensure compliance with the Rules, paragraph 7.

4. Factual Background

Established in 1986, the Complainant is in the business of providing recruitment and talent advisory services, including AI-driven recruitment solutions. It owns the trademark ROBERT WALTERS, for which it enjoys the benefits of registration, including United States of American Reg. No. 2454374, registered on May 29, 2001. The Complainant promotes its services at the websites “www.robertwalters.com” and “www.robertwalters.co.uk”.

According to the Whois records, the disputed domain name was registered on September 22, 2025. The disputed domain name resolves to a website using the word “Recruitment” in the page title, and prominently displaying the words “Connecting Talent with AI” on the page with a Contact Us form below those words.

5. Parties’ Contentions

A. Complainant

The Complainant contends that the disputed domain name is identical or confusingly similar to the Complainant’s trademark; that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain name; and that the disputed domain name was registered and is being used in bad faith.

B. Respondent

The Respondent did not respond to the Complainant’s contentions.

6. Discussion and Findings

To succeed, the Complainant must demonstrate that all of the elements listed in paragraph 4(a) of the Policy have been satisfied: (i) the disputed domain name is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark or service mark in which the Complainant has rights, (ii) the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain name, and (iii) the disputed domain name has been registered and is being used in bad faith. The Panel finds that all three of these elements have been met in this case.

A. Identical or Confusingly Similar

This first element functions primarily as a standing requirement. WIPO Overview of WIPO Panel Views on Selected UDRP Questions, Third Edition (“[WIPO Overview 3.0](#)”), section 1.7. The standing (or threshold) test for confusing similarity involves a reasoned but relatively straightforward comparison between the complainant’s trademark and the disputed domain name. This element requires the Panel to consider two issues: first, whether the Complainant has rights in a relevant mark; and second, whether the disputed domain name is identical or confusingly similar to that mark.

A registered trademark provides a clear indication that the rights in the mark belong to its owner. The Complainant has demonstrated its rights in the ROBERT WALTERS mark by providing evidence of its trademark registrations. The disputed domain name incorporates the ROBERT WALTERS mark in its entirety with no other words or content, making it identical to the Complainant’s mark.

The Panel finds that the Complainant has established this first element under the Policy.

B. Rights or Legitimate Interests

The Panel evaluates this element of the Policy by first looking to see whether the Complainant has made a prima facie showing that the Respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain name. If the Complainant makes that showing, the burden of production of demonstrating rights or legitimate interests shifts to the Respondent (with the burden of proof always remaining with the Complainant).

On this point, the Complainant asserts that: (1) there has been no evidence of the Respondent's use of, or demonstrable preparations to use, the disputed domain name in connection with a bona fide offering of goods or services, (2) at the time of the registration of the disputed domain name, the Respondent would have known that it had no legitimate rights in the trademark ROBERT WALTERS and therefore no rights to use the trademark in the disputed domain name, and (3) the Respondent did not have the permission of the Complainant to register the disputed domain name which is identical to the Complainant's trademark and company name.

The Panel finds that the Complainant has made the required prima facie showing. The Respondent has not presented evidence to overcome this showing. Nothing in the record otherwise tilts the balance in the Respondent's favor.

Accordingly, the Panel finds that the Complainant has established this second element under the Policy.

C. Registered and Used in Bad Faith

The Policy requires a complainant to establish that the disputed domain name was registered and is being used in bad faith.

The disputed domain name has been used to host a website featuring the term "Recruitment" in the page title and the phrase "Connecting Talent with AI" on the page with a Contact Us Form below those words. Given the Complainant's longstanding trademark registration and reputation in the recruitment and talent advisory industry, the Panel finds it highly likely that the Respondent was aware of the Complainant and its rights when registering the disputed domain name.

Although the disputed domain name does not appear to have been substantively used, the limited content of the website mimics the Complainant's services and creates a potential likelihood of confusion with the Complainant. Considering the reputation of the Complainant's trademark and the composition of the disputed domain name being identical to the Complainant's trademark and its domain name (save for the Top-Level Domain), the Panel finds that the registration and use of the disputed domain name constitutes bad faith.

Accordingly, the Panel finds that the Complainant has established this third element under the Policy.

7. Decision

For the foregoing reasons, in accordance with paragraphs 4(i) of the Policy and 15 of the Rules, the Panel orders that the disputed domain name <robertwalters.ai> be transferred to the Complainant.

/Evan D. Brown/

Evan D. Brown

Sole Panelist

Date: January 19, 2026