UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNEMENT TO CONVENE A HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT MEETING ON 23 JUNE 2014 FOLLOWING US GOVERNMENT’S DECISION TO TRANSFER ITS STEWARDSHIP OF THE IANA FUNCTIONS CONTRACT

The United Kingdom ‘s Minister responsible for Internet governance policy, Ed Vaizey, has welcomed the proposal of the US government to transfer its responsibility for approving technical changes to the Internet’s domain name system, known as the IANA functions contract, to an international, multi-stakeholder process.

Mr Vaizey said that he agreed with NTIA Assistant Secretary Larry Strickling that the time was right for this last key step in the globalisation of the management of the Internet’s critical infrastructure to be undertaken. He added that this transition is in recognition of the successful record of the multi-stakeholder approach to global Internet governance and of the maturity of ICANN as the global organisation with responsibility for the management and coordination of the Internet’s addressing system.

ICANN will convene its 50th public meeting of global stake-holders in London in June 2014. Mr Vaizey said that the Internet has grown to play a vital role in all aspects of economic and social life and this would not have happened without ICANN coordinating the evolution of the Internet’s unique addressing system in the efficient and responsible way it has, with absolute commitment to the global public interest. Mr Vaizey said he believed it was now entirely appropriate therefore for ICANN to undertake the process of transferring the stewardship of the IANA functions contract into an open and transparent multi-stakeholder process which is fully accountable to the global Internet community.

Ed Vaizey is convening a global meeting of government ministers and senior policymakers on 23 June during the London ICANN meeting. He said that this meeting will provide an opportunity for senior government policymakers to discuss how they can contribute to this important process of globalisation of the Internet’s critical infrastructure resources. He hopes therefore that as many governments as possible will be able to join him in discussing the way forward for the continuing successful evolution of the Internet’s naming and addressing system.