



Part of

[Apply for a .gov.uk domain name: step by step \(/apply-for-and-manage-a-gov-uk-domain-name\)](#)

Guidance

Benefits of getting a .gov.uk domain

Find out the benefits of getting and using a .gov.uk domain

From:

[Central Digital and Data Office \(/government/organisations/central-digital-and-data-office\)](#)

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Most public sector organisations must use a .gov.uk or other government domain name for their websites, emails and services. [But there are circumstances when your organisation can get non-government domain names. \(https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-a-non-government-domain-name\)](#)

Using a .gov.uk domain is beneficial because it gives your eligible organisations trusted branding, increased security and helps meet any policy and legal obligations.

A .gov.uk domain name used by your organisation:

- shows services, emails and websites are from a trusted UK public sector organisation like a central government department or parish council
- means your website and service will show up higher in search results
- allows staff can join public sector communities which require a .gov.uk email
- is monitored for potential security vulnerabilities, which will be reported to you by the CDDO Domain Management Team
- gives your organisation the ability to better control email accounts by removing staff when they leave
- gives your domain better legal protection because it's based in a UK jurisdiction
- means outgoing emails are more likely to be cleared by security filters and delivered to citizens and other public sector organisations
- increases transparency of smaller organisations when public servants use corporate email accounts instead of personal email accounts for official government business
- helps smaller organisations fulfill best practice guidelines as outlined in the [Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance Practitioners' Guide 2021 \(https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/our-work/jpag/3479-practitioners-guide-2021/file\)](#)

Use a .gov.uk domain to help respond to FOI requests

If you are using personal equipment or email addresses for the work of your organisation, you may have to submit them for scrutiny if your organisation receives a freedom of information or data request.

[Anyone can submit a written request for information in line with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 \(https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/receiving-a-request/\)](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/receiving-a-request/). This law means your organisation could be asked to disclose a wide range of data, including:

- agendas and minutes
- instant messages
- emails
- handwritten notes
- photos
- plans
- correspondence
- remote meeting recordings

Having a .gov.uk email account that is only used for government business will make it easier to respond to any FOI requests.

To get a .gov.uk domain name follow the [apply for a .gov.uk domain name guidance \(https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-and-manage-a-gov-uk-domain-name\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-and-manage-a-gov-uk-domain-name).

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