



UHY Ross Brooke
Chartered Accountants

New regulations and upcoming changes at Companies House



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In March 2024 we published our summary of the regulations which will be in force as a result of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023, which you can access [here](#). Companies House have now provided further details and a timeline for establishing the changes. Once again, we are providing our summary of these changes and their potential impact, below.

Introduction of financial penalties

As of 2 May 2024, new regulations have empowered the Registrar to issue financial penalties to companies and individuals in breach of the Companies Act. Companies House will impose fines of up to £10,000 on companies that ignore warnings to update their records.

Companies house have stated:

"Because financial penalties are an alternative to prosecution, the penalties are similar to those that a court might impose as fines. Financial penalties will increase for repeat offenders. However, the registrar may consider prosecution instead of a financial penalty where the case warrants it."¹

Penalties for non-filing of confirmation statements and misleading information

The Registrar now has greater powers to query information and request supporting evidence and to tackle and remove factually inaccurate information.

Companies House intends to commence issuing penalties for the non-filing of confirmation statements as well as knowingly or recklessly filing false or misleading information.

The penalty process will involve issuing a warning letter, followed by potential prosecution. However, if requirements of the penalty notice have been satisfied within 28 days of the penalty notice date, no penalty will be issued.

For further information and levels of offences please see the [Companies House enforcement policy - GOV.UK](#)

Other upcoming changes

From 25 February 2025: Companies formed on a false basis will be struck off, and the register will be annotated in a wider range of circumstances. This emphasises the need to maintain accurate records.

From 25 March 2025: Director and Persons of Significant Control (PSC) identity verification

- Authorised Corporate Service Providers (ACSPs), regulated for anti-money laundering purposes, may register and verify the identities of directors and PSCs. The documents that can be used for identity verification include biometric passports or ID cards or certain photocard driving licences, for example. Fresh copies will need to be supplied, and we will update you as to the methods you may use to transmit documents to us. Companies House will advise of the next steps for registration of ACSPs, which has been delayed at the time of writing.
- Additionally, Directors and PSCs will be able to voluntarily submit their IDs to Companies House via three methods:
 1. via the GOV.UK One Login ID check app which requires a suitable smartphone with a working camera to enable transmission of the photographic ID together with a photo of the applicant taken with the phone
 2. using the GOV.UK One Login web service, which requires the applicant to answer security questions as well as provide photographic evidence to support their application
 3. attendance at the post office with an approved form of ID after booking a face to face verification appointment through the GOV.UK One Login face to face service. The application is complete and submitted once the applicant logs into their account on the GOV.UK One Login website after successfully completing steps. All three methods of direct verification with Companies House will require creation of a GOV.UK One Login account. The confirmation of a successful registration from the Registrar will be sent only in electronic form, as will the issuing of unique identifiers.
- Regardless of the verification routes, the following information will be collected:
 - full name and any former names
 - date of birth
 - home address
 - address history for the last 12 months
 - email address (which has not previously been used for this purpose by any other applicant).

From Autumn 2025:

- A 12-month transition plan for compulsory ID verification of existing directors and PSCs will commence.
- Directors and PSCs must be verified when filing the confirmation statement and upon incorporation of a company/partnership.

By Spring 2026

- Companies House will make identity verification of presenters a compulsory part of filing any document.

Compliance action against non-verified directors and PSCs will begin by the end of 2026.

For further information, please see [Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act: outline transition plan for Companies House](#)

Transition to electronic filing of accounts

Companies House will require all companies to transition from the paper filing of accounts to electronic filing via software, enabling cost-effective and traceable submissions. The transition will be phased in, with a timetable to be communicated when available.

Encouragement for statutory services

We would strongly encourage all companies to sign-up for statutory services now to maintain your registers and avoid potential prosecution for incomplete or inaccurate filings. For more detailed information, visit the Changes to UK company law campaign website.

<https://changestoukcompanylaw.campaign.gov.uk/>

If you would like further information on how these changes are likely to impact you and your business, or you have any specific issues or concerns, please speak to your usual UHY adviser, or email newbury@uhy-rossbrooke.com



¹<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/companies-house-approach-to-financial-penalties/companies-house-approach-to-financial-penalties>

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