

# Companies House reforms – transition timeline

## Getting your business ready for what comes next

Timeline confirmed on 19 August 2025



The [Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023](#) will transform the powers of Companies House and impose greater filing requirements on registered entities, their officers and owners. Our [Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Hub page](#) provides much more detail on the various reforms expected.

These reforms are coming into force in a phased way and the planned [implementation timetable](#) is summarised below.

Date/Period	Reform
From 4 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increased powers to query and reject new information, remove inaccurate information and improve data sharing with law enforcement agencies and regulators.</li><li>Requirement to have an appropriate registered office address and registered email address and regularly confirm lawful nature of a company's activities.</li></ul>
From October 2024	Companies House can impose financial penalties for relevant offences. <a href="#">Guidance</a> published on 27 September 2024.
From 27 January 2025	Individuals can ask for their residential address to be suppressed from public disclosure in certain circumstances.
From 18 March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Accelerated striking off of companies formed on a false basis</li><li>Professional service providers (including company formation agents, accountants and solicitors) can register as Authorised Corporate Service Providers (ACSPs). This will allow them to carry out ID verification services for their clients and submit these details (and other filings) to Companies House. ACSPs must be registered in the UK and subject to the UK's anti-money laundering regime.</li></ul>
From 8 April 2025	Ability for individuals to voluntarily verify their identification with Companies House.
From 21 July 2025	Individuals can ask for their day of birth, signature and business occupation to be suppressed from public disclosure in certain circumstances.
By 31 August 2025	Access on request to certain trust information on the Register of Overseas Entities.
By 18 November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identity verification compulsory for incorporations and new appointments for new directors and PSCs.</li><li>Start of 12 months transition period for existing companies who will need to provide identity verification for all directors and PSCs when their annual confirmation statement is due.</li></ul>

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For what comes next  
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By Spring 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Presenters</b> submitting filings to Companies house <b>must verify their identity</b>.</li><li>• <b>Third-party agents</b> filing on behalf of companies <b>must be registered as an ACSP</b>.</li></ul>
By end of 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Limited partnerships</b> to submit <b>more information</b>, providing greater transparency.</li><li>• Compliance activity to begin against individuals who have <b>failed to verify</b> their identity.</li></ul>
<u>Accounts reform</u> From 1 April 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Software-only filing</b> for all accounts.</li><li>• <b>No option</b> for small companies or micro-businesses to <b>file abridged accounts</b>.</li><li>• All companies to file <b>profit and loss accounts</b>.</li><li>• Small companies to file <b>a directors' report</b>.</li><li>• Companies <b>claiming an audit exemption</b> must confirm their eligibility for doing so.</li><li>• <b>Limit on number of times</b> a company can shorten its accounting reference date.</li></ul>
<b>Restrictions on corporate directors</b> (Timing not yet clear)	Any <b>corporate director</b> of a company <b>must have an all-natural person board</b> . All directors of the corporate director must verify their identity. <b>Prohibition of overseas companies acting as corporate directors</b> in the UK.
<b>Shareholders</b>	<b>Further transparency</b> around shareholder ownership is expected – implementation options are currently being considered.

### Get in touch

We would be happy to work with you on your analysis and implementation of any changes needed. Please contact us for more details.



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