

Changes to UK Company Law to be implemented in March 2024

In the Autumn of 2022, the UK Government published the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill which was designed to deliver several areas of reform in the way that UK companies and partnerships are formed and maintained, particularly in terms of the information that must be provided to Companies House.

Our November 2022 article which provides an overview of the changes under the Bill, can be found by clicking on the link below:

[Verfides: Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill – November 2022](#)

This Bill became the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act in October 2023, and the first changes under this Act are expected to be implemented by Companies House with effect from 4th March 2024.

The first changes include:

- new rules for registered office addresses.
- a requirement for all companies to supply a registered email address.
- a requirement for all companies to confirm they're forming the company for a lawful purpose when they incorporate, and to confirm its intended future activities will be lawful on their confirmation statement.
- greater powers to query information and request supporting evidence.
- stronger checks on company names.
- the ability to annotate the register when information appears confusing or misleading.
- taking steps to clean up the register, using data matching to identify and remove inaccurate information.
- sharing data with other government departments and law enforcement agencies.

We will focus on the three main changes in this article.

New rules for registered office addresses

From 4 March 2024, companies and partnerships will not be able to use a PO Box as their registered office address.

For any entity which is currently using a PO Box address, this will need to be changed to an 'appropriate address' before 4 March 2024.

An appropriate address, is one where:

- any documents sent to the registered office should be expected to come to the attention of a person acting on behalf of the company.
- any documents sent to that address can be recorded by an acknowledgement of delivery.



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An appropriate address includes a third-party agent address, such as VerFides’.

Companies that do not have an appropriate registered office address by 4 March 2024 could be struck off the register.

Registered email address

From 4 March 2024, all companies will be required to give a registered email address to Companies House.

New companies will need to give a registered email address when they incorporate.

Existing companies will need to give a registered email address when they file their next confirmation statement (after 5 March 2024).

This email address will not be published on the public register.

Companies will have a duty to maintain an appropriate registered email address, in the same way as their registered office address. Any company that does not do this will be committing an offence.

Statement of lawful purpose

All companies on the register, new and existing, have a duty to operate in a lawful way. Under the new rules, companies will be required to confirm the company’s activities are lawful.

Existing companies will need to make a lawful purpose statement when they file their next confirmation statement with a statement date from 5 March 2024.

For companies incorporated after 4 March 2024, the subscribers (shareholders) will need to confirm they’re forming the company for a lawful purpose.

Further Information and Advice

As an authorised Corporate Services Provider, VerFides will be able to assist with all aspects Companies House requirements under the new regime.

For further information or advice, please speak to your usual VerFides contact; email london@verfides.com; or call +44 (0) 20 7930 7111.

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