

Changes to UK Company Law to be implemented in Spring 2025

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:

Transparency Bill

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

Our February 2024 article which provides an overview of the changes implemented in March 2024, can be found by clicking on the link below:

Changes-to-UK-Company-Law-March-2024

Additional changes are under the Act are expected to be implemented in Spring 2025.

We will focus on the three main changes to be implemented in 2025 in this article.

Authorised Corporate Service Providers ("ACSPs")

These changes will require the registration of third-party providers who intend to carry out identification checks on behalf of clients as ACSPs. This is a new requirement that will help Companies House to know who is filing information on the public register.

To register as ACPs, agents must be supervised by a UK Anti-Money Laundering (AML) supervisory body.

This could include:

- Solicitors
- Company Formation Agents
- Trust or Company Service Providers
- Accountants

When the registration service is launched, only agents that plan to verify the identity of clients for Companies House will need to register. In the future, all agents making filing with Companies House on behalf of clients will need to register.



Identity Verification

From Spring 2025, individuals will be able to voluntarily verify their identity.

There will be two types of identity verification: direct verification through Companies House and an indirect one through ACSPs.

In the future, identity verification will become compulsory for:

- new directors and people with significant control (PSCs)
- existing directors and PSCs (there will be a transition period for existing companies)
- anyone acting on behalf of a company

Identity verification will also apply to other registration types. For example, any members of a limited liability partnership (LLP) will also need to verify their identity. Where a member of an LLP is a corporate entity, one of its individual directors (or equivalents) will also be required to verify their identity.

Protecting individuals' information

Effective from the end of January 2025, individuals can apply to suppress the following information from historical documents:

registered office address where it is also their home address

From Spring/Summer 2025, individuals will be able to apply to suppress the following information from historical documents:

- residential addresses in most instances when shown elsewhere on the register
- day of birth for documents registered before 10 October 2015 (only the month and year of birth have been publicly displayed since 10 October 2015)
- signatures
- business occupation

Individuals at personal risk of physical harm or violence because of their personal information being on a Companies House public register, will be able to apply to have their information protected from public view.

The information that can be protected includes:



- name (or previous names)
- sensitive addresses where public disclosure puts its residents at risk
- in the most serious cases, all other details, for example, service address and partial date of birth

Further Information and Advice

As an Authorised Corporate Services Provider, Verfides will be able to assist with all aspects of the 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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