



Companies House

June 2025

Changes to UK company law:

An update on implementation of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act (2023)



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™

We invest in people Platinum

Rydym yn buddsoddi mewn pobl Platinwm

© Crown copyright. Produced by Companies House

Driving confidence in the **UK** economy

Who we are

Companies House incorporates and dissolves limited companies.

We register company information and make it available to the public, for free.

The type of people who use our information includes:

- investors
- researchers
- companies
- government departments
- the general public





Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act (2023)

- The Act gives Companies House the power to play a more significant role in tackling economic crime and supporting economic growth.
- Over time, the measures will lead to improved transparency and more accurate and trusted information on our registers.
- This will drive confidence in the UK economy, increasing the value of the register for businesses and citizens across the UK and beyond.



**Changes to UK
company law**





New objectives for the Registrar

Ensure

any person who is required to deliver a document to the registrar does so (and that the requirements for proper delivery are complied with).

Ensure

information contained in the register **is accurate** and that the **register contains everything it ought to** contain.

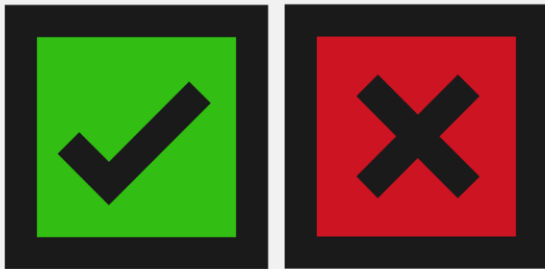
Ensure

records kept by the registrar **do not create a false or misleading impression** to members of the public.

Prevent

prevent companies and others from—

- carrying out **unlawful activities, or**
- **facilitating** the carrying out by **others of unlawful activities.**



The first set of changes under the ECCT Act 2023

We introduced the first set of changes on 4 March 2024

These included:

- greater powers to query, remove and refuse information, including the ability to investigate and enforce
- stronger checks on company names
- new rules for registered office addresses
- the introduction of lawful purpose statements
- greater powers to share data with other agencies



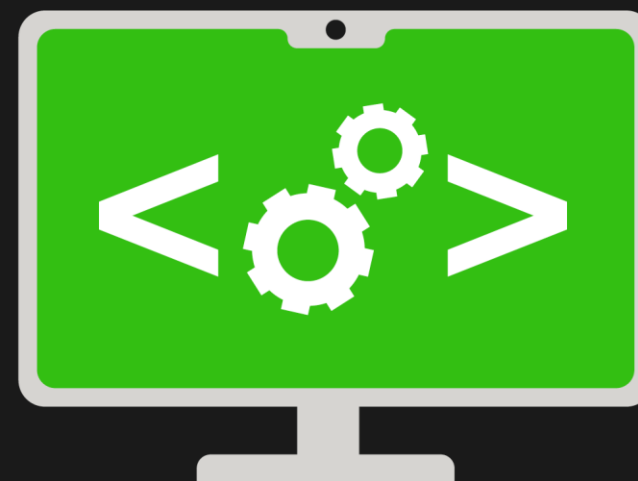
Company names



Upcoming changes under the ECCT Act 2023

Next stages will include:

- Authorisation of corporate service providers in keeping with Anti-Money Laundering Supervision arrangements – this launched on 18 March 2025
- Identity verification 8th April 2025
- Mandating software-only filing for accounts
- Limited Partnership reform





What we have delivered so far:

Removals of false information

We have commenced the process to remove names and addresses used without consent. This includes removals of officers and People with Significant Control (PSCs) where previously, those wishing to have their details removed would have had to apply to the courts.

From 4 March 2024 to 31 March 2025, we have:

- removed **90,000** registered office addresses.
- removed **72,200** officer addresses and **59,100** PSC addresses.
- redacted **47,200** incorporation documents to remove personal data used without consent.
- removed **13,000** documents from the register, including **800** false mortgage satisfaction filings which would have previously required a court order.

This has affected 106,300 total companies

CH Prevention Strategy:

- Since March 2024, we have prevented over **14,400** suspicious filings.
 - including rejecting approx. **3,650** incorporations;
 - and over **10,700** non-incorporation filings – attempted registrations against existing companies.

These numbers may seem small, but the majority of information applied to the Register is legitimate.

We are working to make improvements to our process, and looking to identify trends, deploy new technologies and work with partners.

Default addresses

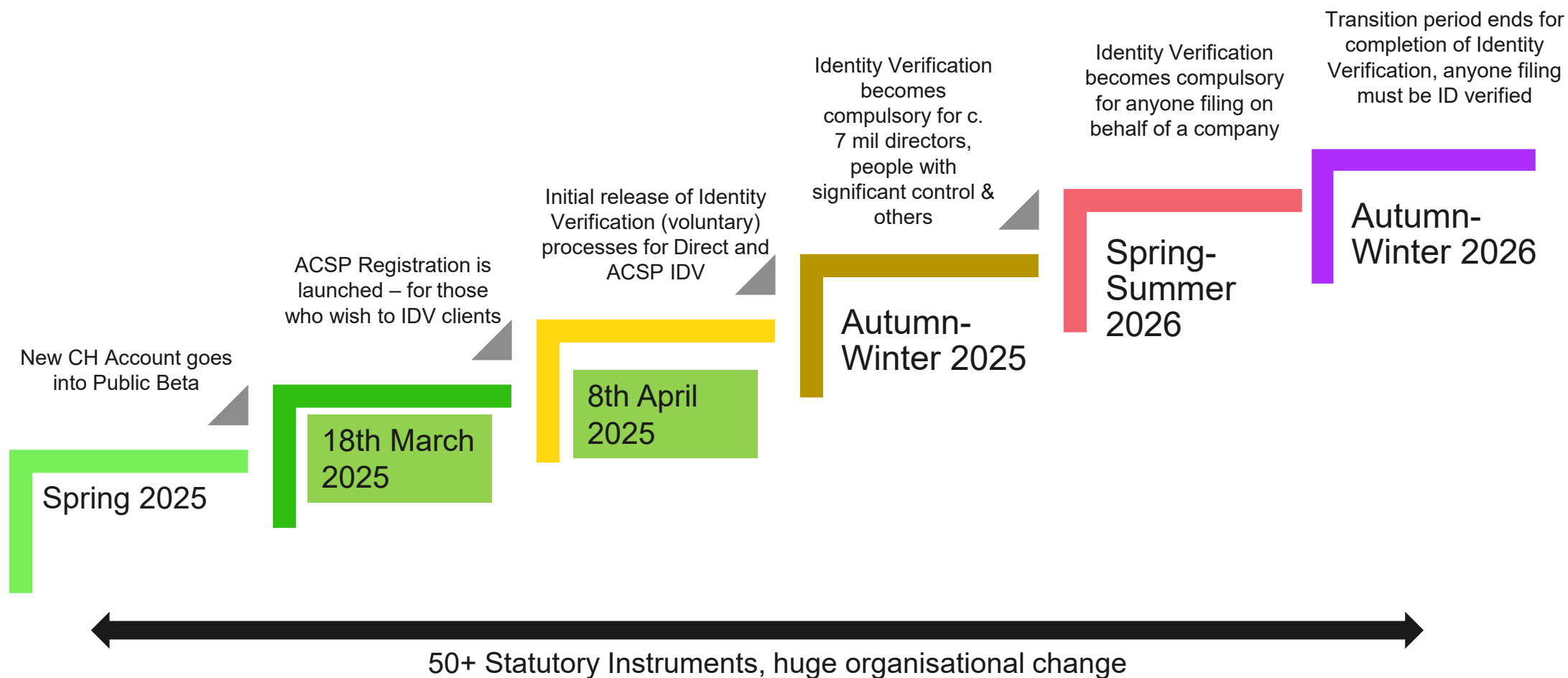
Where a company's registered office is not appropriate, such as in instances of fraudulent use, we will change the address to a default address. These companies will then be struck off the register unless they can provide an appropriate address with evidence that they are entitled to use that address.

Since 4 March 2024 CH changed 87,800 addresses to Default address

On 31 March 2025 there were 52,200 companies at the default address

- 5,300 on 35 day countdown to 1st Gazette
- 15,900 issued 1st Gazette
- 10,800 with an Objection to SO.

Implementation: Reforms are extensive and will take time

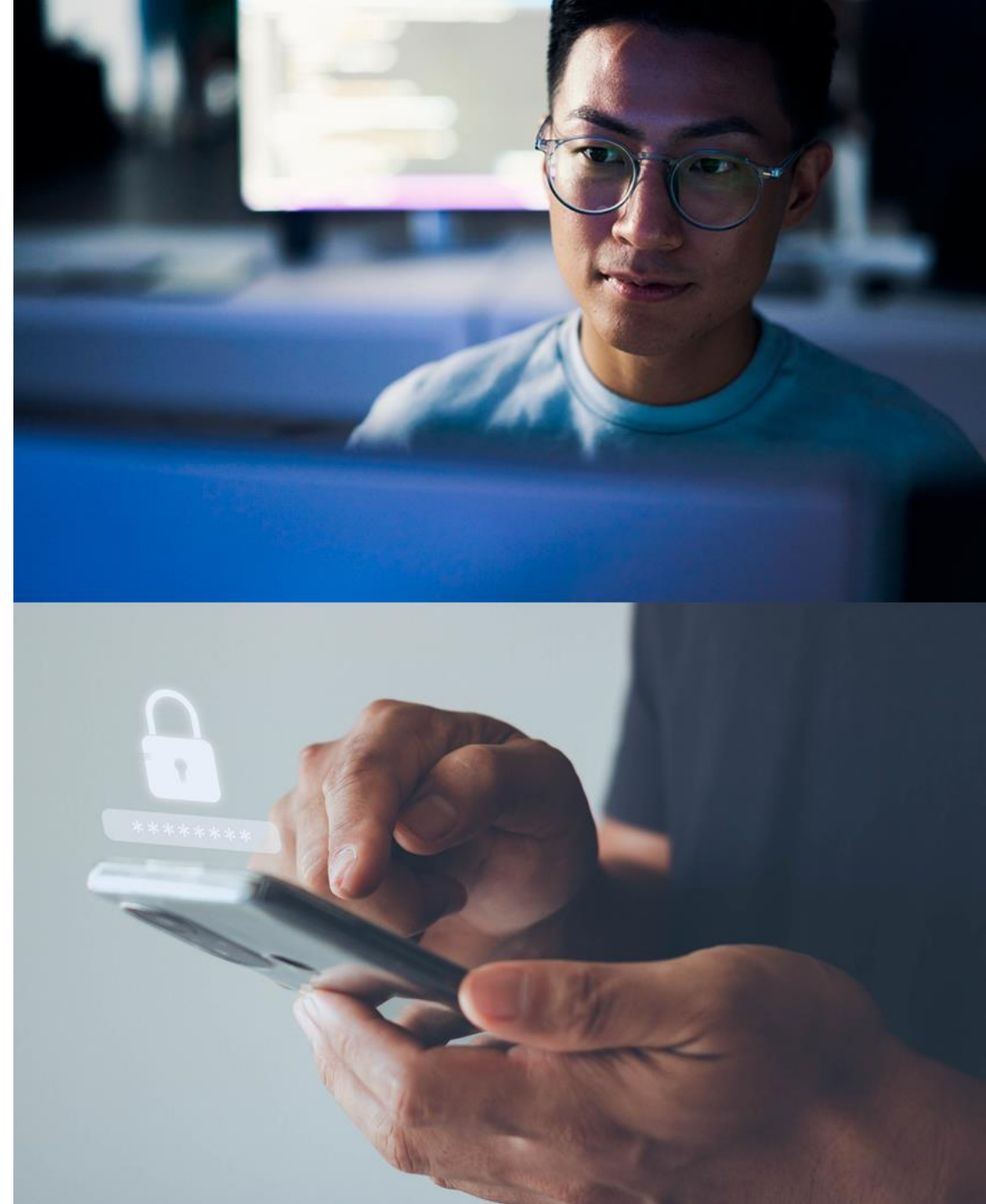




Companies House

Authorised Corporate Service Providers (ACSPs)

- The ACSP registration service went live on 18 March 2025
- Registered **5700+** since 18 March
- Companies House will have the power to suspend or deauthorise ACSPs as needed
- ACSPs will be expected to verify individuals to the same standard as those verifying directly with Companies House
- Companies House has provided guidance to support ACSPs





Registering to be an ACSP

- The applicant (Relevant Person i.e. Director or Sole Trader) will need to IDV as part of the application process.
- As well as your supervised firm details, we'll ask you for your AML supervisory body membership number.
- If your business is a sole trader, you will need to provide additional information, E.G. name and date of birth. But if a Limited Company, we'll provide you with the details
- Once registered, you will be issued with a digital account and a unique identity number. You can file information and complete identity verification checks for clients.
- You can add colleagues to the account once registered. They will then be able to undertake identity checks and file accounts for clients



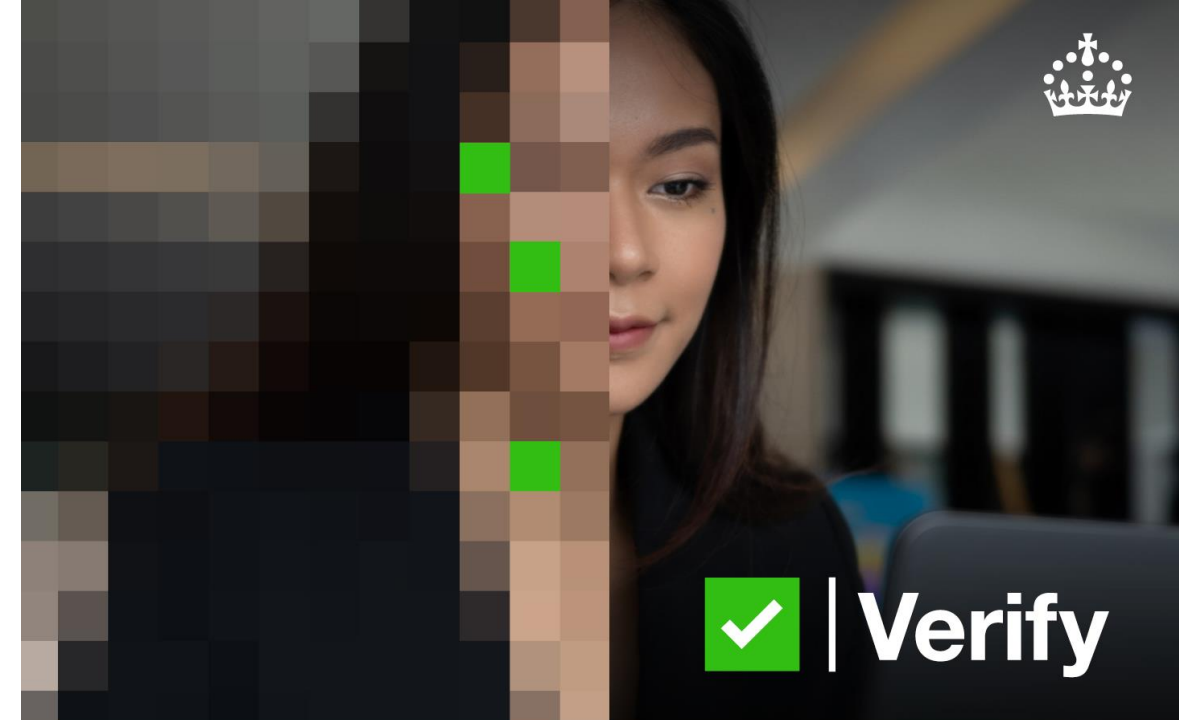
Reasons for Rejections ACSP

- AML Number not matching Supervisor data held by CH.
- Details differ ACSP application – vs data held by supervisor ie Company name.
- Not eligible to apply – ie not supervised for AML activity by your supervisory body.
- Duplicate applications (only one ACSP per AML supervised entity)
- When attempting to link employee accounts to the New ACSP Account employees must have an Existing CHS account or they need to create a new One Login Account.



Identity Verification

- IDV requirements will be rolled out in phases during 2025 and 2026 - by end of transition anyone owning, running or filing on behalf of a company must be identity verified
- Scale is significant – 7.4 Million existing officers on the register
- This phased introduction will allow us to continually monitor customer feedback, minimise disruption to business where possible, and keep timelines under constant review.
- From 8 April 2025, individuals are now able to voluntarily verify their identity.
- They are able to verify directly with Companies House through GOV.UK One Login, or through an Authorised Corporate Service Provider (ACSP).
- **200K+** via One Login - **6900+** Via an ACSP



✓ | **Verify**

**Changes to UK
company law**

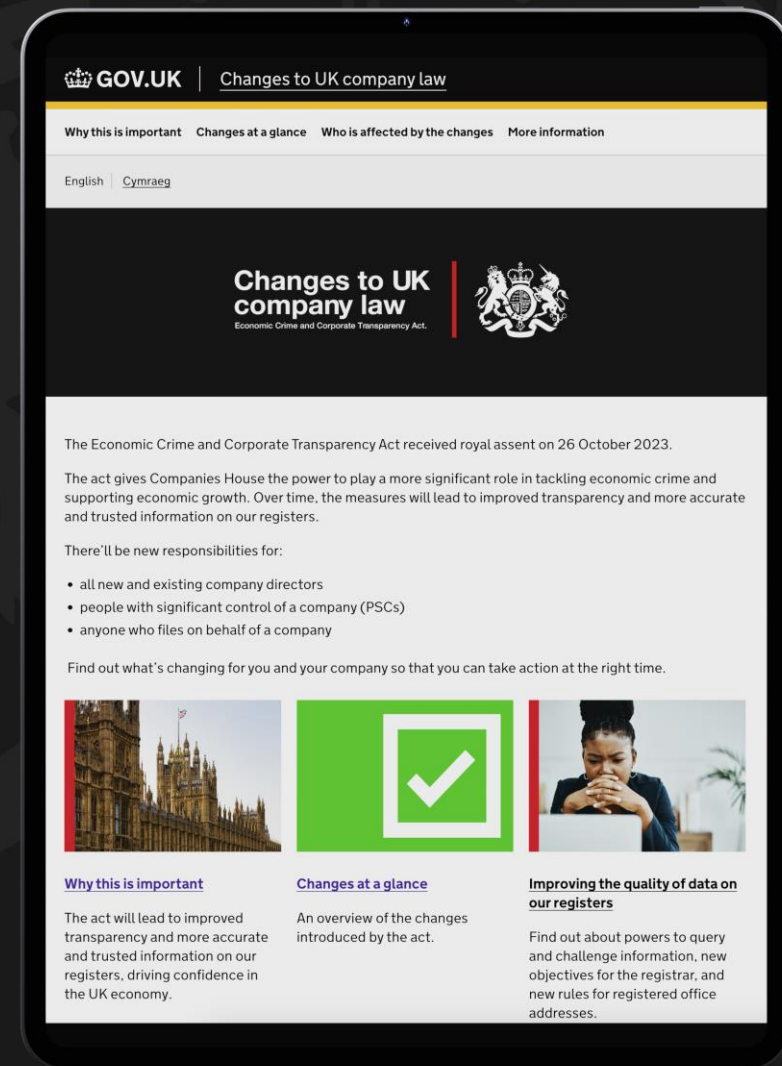


Keep up-to-date about Companies House changes

We will give advance notice of the changes we make as a result of the Act.

Keep up to date by:

- Checking for updates on our campaign site:
changestoUKcompanylaw.campaign.gov.uk
- Read our GOV.UK blogs
- Follow our social media channels
- Subscribe to our newsletters.



Thank you – any questions?