

COMPANY TYPES & REGISTERS

Registrar and Share Register Services: Regulatory Update

The changes of the last two years that affect registers, filings and the people behind them, and what a company or practice should check now.

Why this matters for the register

Most of the recent change comes from the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023, and it has reshaped who keeps which records and who must prove who they are. For a company, the register of members stays with the company, while information about directors and people with significant control now lives at Companies House. For a practice, the changes alter who can file on a client's behalf and what must be checked before an appointment is made.

What has changed

WHEN	CHANGE	WHAT IT MEANS
8 April 2025	Voluntary identity verification opens	Individuals can verify through GOV.UK One Login or an Authorised Corporate Service Provider
18 November 2025	Identity verification becomes mandatory for new directors and people with significant control	Verify before acting, or the appointment cannot be filed
18 November 2025	Local registers of directors, residential addresses, secretaries and PSCs no longer required	Companies House holds the record; changes are filed within 14 days
18 November 2025	Business occupation no longer required for directors	One less item to record
26 January 2026	Option to hold the register of members at Companies House ends	Each company keeps its own register
1 February 2026	Some Companies House fees change	Check the current fee list before filing

Key points

- The register of members stays with the company, at the registered office or an inspection address.
- Registers of directors, secretaries and PSCs are now held at Companies House.
- Identity verification applies to new directors and PSCs, and existing ones are in a transition period.
- Agents need to be registered as an Authorised Corporate Service Provider to verify identities.
- Further filing changes are scheduled for 2027.

The register of members

A company that had elected to hold its register of members at Companies House must now create a full register of its own and keep it at its registered office or at a single alternative inspection location. It must be open to inspection by the members and others, on the terms in our registrar guide. Every holder should trace to an allotment, a transfer or a transmission, and the register should agree with the confirmation statement and the statement of capital.

Directors, secretaries and people with significant control are no longer entered in registers the company must keep.

Identity verification

New directors and people with significant control must verify their identity before the appointment is filed. Existing directors confirm that they have verified when the company files its next confirmation statement during a twelve-month transition that began on 18 November 2025. Existing people with significant control have a 14-day window to give their personal code, and for those who are not directors it opens on the first day of their birth month. Failure to comply is an offence, and a company with unverified officers may be blocked from filing.

The transition period for existing officers runs to mid-November 2026. Companies that have not yet checked their directors and people with significant control should do so now.

Agents and filing

An agent who verifies a client's identity for Companies House must be registered as an Authorised Corporate Service Provider, supervised for anti-money-laundering purposes and able to show records of the checks it made. The wider requirement for agents to be registered to file on behalf of clients has been postponed, and will apply no earlier than November 2026. Practices should check the current position on GOV.UK before relying on a date.

Coming next

Companies House has announced that annual accounts must be filed using commercial software from 1 April 2027, with web and paper filing closing and abridged accounts removed. Micro-entities will then file a profit and loss account as well as a balance sheet. Practices that file accounts through the web service should check their software now.

A checklist

CHECK	WHY
Register of members at the registered office	Central register option has ended
Identity verification status of each director and PSC	Transition ends in mid-November 2026
Registered email and office address current	Required filings under the Act
Agent registration, if you act for clients	Needed to verify identities

Questions to ask the client

- Was the register of members held at Companies House?
- Has each director and PSC verified their identity?
- When is the next confirmation statement due?
- Does anyone file on the company's behalf?
- Who has the personal codes and the records?
- Is accounts software in place for 2027?

How MTM can help

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We keep registers of members for private companies at the correct address, prepare the confirmation statement and statement of capital to match, and help directors and people with significant control through identity verification. As an Authorised Corporate Service Provider, we can verify identities for your clients and file on their behalf.