

Broadcast

FACTSHEET: COMPANIES HOUSE REFORM

SPECIAL ISSUE

01753 888211
www.nhllp.com



Companies House is introducing wide-ranging reforms – subject to new legislation being in place – from 4 March 2024. Directors need to get ready for the first tranche of measures.

The reforms are being introduced with the aim of clamping down on financial crime and improving corporate transparency and form part of the recently enacted Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency (ECCT) Act. The adjustments will become notably affected when incorporating a new company, but existing companies are also affected.

Registered office

The use of a PO box as a registered office will no longer be permitted. A registered office must be an address where the receipt of documents can be recorded by an acknowledgement of delivery. This means that a third-party agent's address should still be suitable.

Directors should make sure that any existing company using a PO box as a registered office address has made a change by 4 March 2024. This can be done online at the Companies House website.

Any company without an appropriate registered office address risks being struck off the Companies House register.

Email address

When a company is incorporated from 4 March 2024, it will be a requirement for the company to provide an email address to Companies House.

For all the latest news...

The same email address can be used for more than one company.

Therefore, the requirements are:

- Existing companies will need to provide an email address when they next file a confirmation statement.
- Companies House will use the email address for communications with the company.
- A company's email address will not be published on the public register.

You can update the email address in the same way as web filing other company changes at Companies House.

Please note that where you are using our address as the registered office and/or we are engaged to deal with your company secretarial matters, we will manage these changes for you.

Lawful purpose

In future, the subscribers (shareholders) will need to confirm they are forming a new company for a lawful purpose.

For existing companies, confirmation statements filed from 4 March 2024 will include a declaration that a company's future activities will be lawful. Companies House may take action if it receives information that a company is not operating lawfully.

Other changes are in the pipeline, in particular, mandatory identity checks for company officers will be introduced later in 2024. Details of the changes being introduced by The ECCT Act can be found on the [government website](#).

We can help

Please call us on **01753 888 211** or email **info@nhllp.com** if you need guidance with any of the issues raised in this Broadcast. We would be happy to help.