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New changes to UK company law have given Companies House the power to play a more significant role in tackling economic crime. The changes came into effect on the 4 March 2024 via the passing of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act on 26 October 2023. The changes to note are:

## Registered office addresses

- Companies must have an appropriate registered office address where delivery can be acknowledged and addressed to the attention of an individual acting on behalf of the company.
- A PO box is no longer a suitable address.
- Action will be taken against companies that don't have a legitimate address. See the government's website for more detail.

## Registered email address

- All companies must provide Companies House with a registered email address for communications.
- New companies can provide it when incorporating, and existing companies when filing their next confirmation statement.
- It can be an individual's or an authorised agent's email address.
- The email address will not be published on the public register.

## Lawful purpose statement

 When a company is incorporated or when an existing company files their next confirmation statement, the shareholders must confirm that the intended future activities of the company are for a lawful purpose.

## Future changes

- Companies House is increasing their fees from the 1 May 2024. Please see the government's website for a list of the increased fees.
- A new identity verification process for all directors and people with significant control will be introduced. This will involve verifying your identity using ID documents.
- Filing accounts by software only (phased in over the next 2 to 3 years).
- Changes to small company filing options, including the need to file a profit and loss statement (details yet to be published through secondary legislation).
- An additional statement for confirmation of audit exemptions by directors.

## For more help

For further information on the Companies House changes, contact CT via mail@ct.me or your usual CT contact. If we currently prepare confirmation statements for you, we'll be in touch about the changes when it's time to file your next confirmation statement.

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