

The Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
Chair, Business and Trade Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

T: +44 (0) 020 4551 0011

E: madders.correspondence@businessandtrade.gov.uk

W: www.gov.uk/dbt

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Dear Liam,

The Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (Annotations) Regulations 2025
The Protection and Disclosure of Personal Information (Amendment) Regulations 2025

Further to my previous letter of 13 March regarding Companies House reform, I am writing to inform you that my Department has today laid the above statutory instruments (SIs) before Parliament. These instruments form part of the ongoing work to make the register more transparent and reliable. As the Registrar of Companies, Louise Smyth, stated in her letter to you on 17 April, Companies House is making significant progress on its transformation programme. These two SIs contribute to this work. Specifically, they offer protection to certain individuals from their information appearing on the public register and allow the registrar to annotate the register to increase its transparency. Below is an outline of the purpose of each instrument:

The Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (Annotations) Regulations 2025

This instrument will provide the registrar with new powers and duties to annotate the companies register in particular circumstances.

At present, the registrar can annotate the register where, in her view, information (or its absence) is confusing or misleading. These new regulations will extend her discretion so that she can annotate the register to reflect that:

- a director is subject to disqualification sanctions pursuant to regulations made under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018,
- a person has failed to comply with a notice requiring them to provide particular information to the registrar,
- a notice has been published in the Gazette (i.e. the UK's official public record in which company-related notices are published) indicating the intention to strike the company from the register on the basis that the registrar believes it to have been incorporated on a false basis.

Additionally, the regulations will place a duty on the registrar to annotate the register where details of a Person with Significant Control (“PSC”, i.e. an individual who owns or controls a company) have been suppressed from public view to safeguard that individual from the risk of violence or intimidation.

The SI also applies the changes it makes to limited liability partnerships (“LLPs”) so that the registrar’s annotation powers and duties in respect of LLPs are consistent with companies.

The Protection and Disclosure of Personal Information (Amendment) Regulations 2025

This SI is the second privacy SI in the reform programme resulting from the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act. It will enable individuals to ‘protect’, in more circumstances than is possible now, their personal information where it appears on the companies register. This means the registrar must not display the relevant information publicly following a successful application to withhold the information from view.

The instrument builds on last year’s Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (Protection and Disclosure of Information and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2024, which came into force on 27 January this year.

This new SI will allow individuals to apply to protect their signature, business occupation, day of date of birth, and residential address (where it is not already possible, with the exception of certain charge-related filings and company names). This will help those who are at risk of fraud, identity theft or for personal reasons (e.g. as domestic abuse victims/survivors) because of their personal information appearing on the public register.

The SI will also remove:

- the requirement for certain Community Interest Company (“CIC”) documents and statements of solvency to be signed; and
- the requirement for directors of overseas companies to provide a business occupation.

The regulations also expand the grounds on which PSCs can make an application to request the registrar refrain from disclosing their usual residential address to a credit reference agency. They also make other minor amendments to secondary legislation relating to PSCs, which are applied to LLPs and eligible Scottish partnerships.

The SI will apply the changes made to company law to the law governing LLPs and unregistered companies to ensure the framework for other entities keeps in step with that for companies.

If you have questions on any of the points in this letter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours ever,



JUSTIN MADDERS MP

Minister for Employment Rights, Competition and Markets
Department for Business and Trade