

## Companies House ID Verification

Effective from 18 November 2025

### **What's changing / Why**

- New legal requirement under the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 for certain individuals to verify their identity with Companies House.
- Aim: improve accuracy and trust in the register, and reduce fraud.

### **Who must verify their identity**

Mandatory ID checks apply to:

- Company directors, including newly appointed ones.
- Persons with Significant Control (PSCs).
- Equivalent roles in other structures: general partners, managing officers, etc.
- Also Authorised Corporate Service Providers (ACSPs) (i.e. corporate agents) need to verify.

Not yet in scope (for now): limited partnerships, corporate (rather than individual) PSCs, corporate directors.

### **When verification is required**

- From 18 November 2025, the mandatory phase begins.
- New directors / PSCs (i.e., after that date): must verify their identity *before* appointment or incorporation.
- Existing directors (appointed before 18 Nov 2025): they must verify by the time of their next *confirmation statement* (annual company filing) within a 12-month transition window.
- Existing PSCs: they generally have a 14-day window to provide their personal code once the requirement applies, depending on their situation:
  - If already PSC + director: the 14-day window aligns with the confirmation statement date.
  - If PSC but *not* a director: their 14-day window starts on the first day of their month of birth (as shown in the register).
  - New PSCs (after 18 Nov): they have 14 days from being added to the PSC register.

## How to Verify Your Identity

### Route 1: GOV.UK One Login

- Use passport/driving licence, or
- Use alternative verification options (e.g., Post Office in-person)
- Receive your **Companies House personal verification code**

### Route 2: Via an Authorised Corporate Service Provider

- Provide approved identity documents to your accountant
- They verify you with Companies House
- You still receive your personal verification code

### What You Need

- Valid photo ID (passport / driver's licence) and utility bill
- Device with camera (for online checks)
- Your personal verification code

### Consequences of Not Verifying

- Cannot legally act as a director
- Company may be unable to file or make certain appointments
- Risk of financial penalties, enforcement action or strike-off
- **Recommended Immediate Actions**
- ☐ Check your confirmation statement date
- ☐ Gather identity documents
- ☐ Set up / confirm your GOV.UK One Login
- ☐ Notify all directors and PSCs
- ☐ Decide whether to self-verify or use an ACSP
- ☐ Securely store your personal verification code

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