

P&L filing back on the menu for small companies from 2028

In another twist to the long-running filing saga, small companies and micro-entities will have to file profit and loss accounts with Companies House from 2028 but can opt out of publishing the information on the public register.

The government has announced that small companies and micro entities will be required to file profit and loss accounts with Companies House, but with the option of not making them publicly available.

The move was initially put on ice due to concerns it would place undue burdens on affected businesses, with a source close to the then business secretary Jonathan Reynolds telling the Financial Times that “this would not happen”.

However, in a statement released 9th June 2026, the government stated that the reforms will now come into effect from April 2028, rather than April 2027 as planned, giving companies one full accounting year and nine months to get ready.

In addition to the new filing rules, all companies will need to file accounts via commercial software, with the Companies House web and paper-based filing systems closed for accounts filings.

Privacy and commercial risk concerns

The statement added that the decision to allow small companies and micro-entities to opt out of publishing their filed profit and loss accounts “addresses concerns from the business and investment community around the privacy and commercial risks for smaller companies of disclosing this information”.

“Companies who [sic] wish to enjoy the benefits of publication, such as improved access to finance and enhanced transparency can still do so.”

Details of how smaller companies can opt out of the publication of profit and loss will be released at a later time.

The government confirmed that where a company opts out of publishing its profit and loss accounts, Companies House, law enforcement and HMRC will still have access to help identify and tackle fraud, economic crime and tax evasion.

Software-only accounts filing

The April 2028 reforms will also require all UK-registered companies to file their annual accounts with Companies House in Inline eXtensible Business Reporting Language (iXBRL) format by using commercial software.

Cont’d...

Cont'd...

This applies to companies that file their own accounts and those that use third-party agents or accountants to file their annual accounts. From this date, the Companies House web and paper-based filing systems will be closed for accounts filings.

Companies House web filing services will remain available and fully supported for non-accounts filings, including confirmation statements and updates to director details.

In the statement, the government said the move will “improve the quality of financial data for register users” and “provide more opportunities over time for companies’ accounts data to be aggregated, compared and analysed for use more widely.”

The reforms will also remove the option for companies to file abridged accounts, require a strengthened eligibility statement for all companies claiming an audit exemption, require component parts of the filed accounts and reports to all be filed together.

The number of times a company can shorten its accounting reference period will be reduced, together with the introduction of annotations to the register where a company has not complied with a notice regarding compliance of its accounts with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us

Leofric House, Binley Road
Coventry, CV3 1JN
Tel: +44 (0)24 7625 1333
Fax: +44 (024) 7625 1777

Euston House, 12 Euston Place
Leamington Spa, CV32 4BN
Tel: +44 (0)1926 88 88 65
www.leigh-christou.co.uk

For Information of users: This material is published for the information of clients. It provides only an overview of the regulations in force at the date of publication, and no action should be taken without consulting the detailed legislation or seeking professional advice. Therefore, no responsibility for loss occasioned by any person acting or refraining from action as a result of the material can be accepted by the authors or the firm.

Leigh Christou Ltd are registered as auditors in the UK and regulated for a range of investment business activities in the United Kingdom by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.