Best practice in business registration

Tim Moss
President Corporate Registers Forum
Registrar of Companies and Chief Executive of Companies House UK
Role

Linking up our global community

- Opportunity
- Exchange experiences
- Information
- Support

Our aim is to provide members with the opportunity to review the latest developments in corporate business registers internationally and exchange experiences and information on the present and future operation of corporate business registration systems.

- Membership – 50 jurisdictions, 5 continents
A global community
International Association of Commercial Administrators
xbRL  Digital
Open data  New developments
Best practice  Corporate transparency
World bank  Share challenges
Efficiency, trust, speed
Ease of doing business  Benchmarking
Company law  Beneficial ownership
Reduction in informal activities
Economic and social sustainability
Commercial code
Ease of doing business report
Best practice registration: some simple steps to consider

Economies around the world have taken steps making it easier to start a business:

• modern and easy to understand laws,
• reducing or eliminating minimum capital requirements,
• streamlining procedures,
• reduced licenses,
• one-stop shop,
• introducing technology making procedures simpler and/or faster,
• flat fees for registration,
• reduced or eliminated search fees,
• Reform in stages …
Recent case studies

Solomons

- Pre reform: Cost of incorporation using lawyer: US$2,500
- Post reform: No lawyer needed. Cost: SBD$ 1,250 (US$100)
- Pre reform 7 procedures, average registration time: 43 days
- Post reform 7 procedures, maximum of 1.5 days with electronic registry
- 140% increase in community entities in 24 months
Recent case studies

Samoa

• Pre reform: US$300 in legal fees
• Post reform: ST$ 250 (US$106)
• Pre reform: 9 procedures, average registration time 3-5 weeks
• Post reform: 4 procedures, maximum of 1-2 days with electronic registry
• 84% increase in registered entities in 12 months
Lessons learnt

• Lead from the top, commitment from all agencies involved
• Legal reform as early as possible
• Engage with stakeholders (Be transparent)
• Review and challenge thinking, processes, procedures
• Business Process re-mapping
• Technology, online registers
• Fee incentives
• Re-registration
• Clear backlog
• Digitize and archive where possible
• Adopt IaaS or Registry as a Service where possible
UK perspective

Making limited liability work

Easy registration combined with good integrity of information leading to excellent corporate transparency

- Strong flexible legal framework – small to global
- Ease of compliance & high compliance rates
- Integrity and quality of information
- Low costs
- Easy and fast access to data
who/what is a company?
Growth in Register

REMOVALS 332,000
NEW COMPANIES 533,000

3.3m

1.2m 1.6m 2.5m 3.3m 3.5m 3.8m 4.1m


Companies House

2013/14 (May)
FILING customers

- Accountants: 45%
- Formation Agents: 6%
- Solicitors: 5%
- Other: 5%
- Company DIY: 39%

COMMON case company

- Directors: 77%
- Shareholders: 87%
search

WebCheck
PAID: 1.7m

Companies House Direct
PAID: 3.5m

FREE SEARCHES
235m
(WebCheck, Companies House Direct, URI, XML)

99%
ELECTRONIC

137m
URI Downloads
(1 year)

100,000
APP Downloads

Companies House

bulk information

opencorporates

EQUIFAX

pwc

FSA

THE INSOLVENCY SERVICE

 creaditsafe

creditsafe

simply smarter

Lloyd's TSB

csa
dbsg

D&B

POLICE

JORDANS

HM Revenue & Customs

VOSA

Experian

A world of insight

BARCLAYS

aRMAdillo

Worldwide Business Information

Office for National Statistics

RBS

Jan 2014
UK perspective

Key issues
• Understanding user need
• Good digital services - Reducing burdens
• Incorporate in 10 minutes to 10 hours
• Updates < 24 hours
• Low cost - £15 to incorporate, £13 Annual fee
• Access to data – multiple routes: individual, bulk, machine to machine
• Low cost to access – £0 to £1
Companies House Service
BARCLAY LIMITED

Company number 02763982

A Private Limited Company incorporated on 11 November 1992

Status: Active

Registered office address
Audley House
56 Kings Road
Richmond
Surrey
TW10 6EP

Accounts
Next accounts made up to 30 November 2014 due by 31 August 2015
Last accounts made up to 30 November 2013

Annual return
Next annual return made up to 11 November 2014 due by 9 December 2014
Last annual return made up to 11 November 2013

Directors and Secretaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Appointment date</th>
<th>Date of birth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Richard SILVER</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>20 Sep 2010</td>
<td>16 Oct 1971</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Integrity

COMPLETE, CURRENT and CORRECT

& working with others

HM Revenue & Customs
National Fraud Authority
Home Office
The Insolvency Service
CIFAS
National Crime Agency
Companies House
CATO
Company Accounts and TAX Online
# Open Corporate Data

How countries around the world allow company registration information to be publicly accessible. Read more →

## The Open Company Data Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>90/100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>75/100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>70/100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>70/100</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>70/100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>50/100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>45/100</td>
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</table>
AN EXAMPLE COMPANY LIMITED

Company number 01394691
A Private Limited incorporated on 18 October 1978
Status: Active

Registered office address

20 BLAND ST
SHEFFIELD
S4 8DG

Accounts
Next accounts made up to
31 March 2013 due by
31 January 2012
Last accounts made up to
31 March 2010

Return Overdue
Next annual return made up to
18 March 2011 due by
15 April 2011
Last annual return made up to
18 March 2010

Directors and Secretaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Appointment date</th>
<th>Date of birth</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline CROSSLAND</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>14 July 2008</td>
<td>13 June 1961</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacqueline CROSSLAND</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>18 March 1992</td>
<td>13 June 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaine RUDGE</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>18 March 1992</td>
<td>18 October 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul WHITE</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>18 March 1992</td>
<td>24 January 1954</td>
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