



Transformational Government

Enabled by technology

Companies House

Delivery experts at Companies House have worked up, in their own words, some hypothetical examples that give a glimpse of what may be possible in the future. These scenarios are not policy statements of what will happen: they are illustrations of what might be possible in a simple pragmatic way when the principles of the strategy are delivered. These illustrations simply apply existing technologies to public sector delivery models, rather than trying to stretch the technology too far.

The Transformational Government strategy will make dealing with Companies House swift, simple and secure.

Help will be available 24 hours, seven days a week and no Government regulator will have to make tiresome requests for information already held in another part of Government. This is a glimpse of that future.

Before incorporating a company, soon-to-be directors get all the information they need from Business Link. Up-to-date content from across government is combined to answer all their questions and provide confidence that they are choosing the correct corporate vehicle.

Incorporating is quick and easy. Guided by the Businesslink website, within minutes of confirming their company name, the new directors get a PDF copy of their incorporation certificate by email. The information given to Companies House is automatically fed to other Government departments, preventing repeat requests for information and duplication.

Complying with the Companies Act obligations is easy. This is due partly to receiving email and SMS reminders, but mostly to the quick and easy WebFiling options accessible from either the Companies House or Business Link websites using the company's Government Gateway password.

Each year a few minutes are spent checking and amending the company's information online through a series of user-friendly screens where existing details are already filled in. There is a secure web portal tailored to the needs of companies that file and search for company information on their own behalf.

Thanks to online help and validation, the company never has information rejected by Companies House, and seldom needs to telephone the government's support desk. When they do, the skilled advisors are able to answer queries quickly by instant access to a central data store.

Having been authorised to file for the company, their accountant receives an email reminder from Companies House when accounts are due. They then submit the company's accounts data via the Companies House agents' portal using their Government Gateway agent credentials and confirm that the data should be passed to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). Within minutes they receive email confirmation that both have accepted the data.

Neither the company, nor its accountant, ever file paper forms. The speed, accuracy, convenience and security advantages of online filing are obvious to them from their incorporation experience. Moreover, they pay lower fees than paper filers because Companies House passes on the cost savings from end-to end electronic processing.

The director is protected from identity theft by the Companies House PROOF service which prevents fraudulent changes to their registered office address. This reinforces the trust that grows between them and Government after incorporation.

When the company does change address it is saved from notifying various government bodies because the change they register online with Companies House triggers a simultaneous change across Government. This is possible because of the government's common business identifier.

The company's exemplary compliance record is rewarded with endorsement on Companies House's website. This provides free online access to all the company's stored details.

www.businesslink.gov.uk

www.companieshouse.gov.uk