



GOVERNMENT WHIPS' OFFICE

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FROM THE LORD LEONG

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6 August 2025

Dear Barry,

You may recall the SI debate on the 13 January for the Registrar (Identity Verification and Authorised Corporate Service Provider) Regulations 20254 and the Unique Identifiers (Application of Company Law) Regulations 20254. These regulations since came into force in March this year.

I want to offer my sincere and profuse apologies for the delay in following up with the additional details I promised during January's debate. I deeply regret not getting back to you sooner and hope you will accept my apology.

### **Companies House registrars**

During the debate, you asked questions around when the registrar was appointed, what term is she serving and what her salary is. I should clarify that in law, there are three company registrars in the UK: the registrar for England and Wales, the registrar for Scotland and the registrar for Northern Ireland. The Chief Executive of Companies House and registrar for England and Wales is Louise Smyth who was appointed in September 2017. Louise is a full-time civil servant at the SCS 2 pay band, with a salary between £120-125,000. Louise is planning to retire in August this year; her successor, [Andy King](#), will take up the role shortly after, on a salary of between £115,000 and £120,000. The registrars of Scotland and Northern Ireland are more junior roles.

### **Companies House implementation**

You also asked questions around hold-ups to delivering identity verification and Companies House's readiness to implementing this change. Companies House has undertaken significant preparations to ensure the successful implementation of Identity Verification and Unique Identifiers. This has included increasing the size of their operational functions and developing new services. Companies House identity verification service was successfully launched in April this year, allowing individuals time to voluntarily complete their identity verification checks before it becomes mandatory in Autumn.

It is anticipated that the majority of individuals attempting verification will be able to complete the process in a matter of minutes using a range of documents (such as a passport) and their smart phone device. Additional routes and support will be available to aid those navigating the process. This process will be underpinned by the use of GOV.UK One Login, which has already been successfully deployed across a range of government services.

### **Money laundering cases**

A further question was posed, asking how many money laundering cases the registrar took to court in 2023 and 2024. The registrar has no role in prosecuting for money laundering offences but regularly shares data with enforcement partners who do have those investigative and prosecuting powers.

### **Future parliamentary engagement**

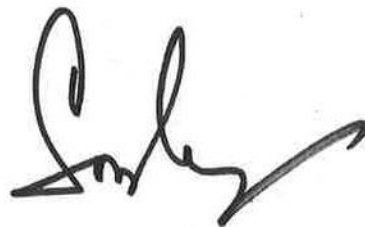
There is a statutory requirement to lay before the House an annual report on the implementation and operation of parts 1-3 of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act. This year's report was published in June and can be found here - [Second progress report on the implementation and operation of Parts 1 to 3 of Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023](#). The regulations debated in January also contain a requirement to undertake a Post Implementation Review to assess the effectiveness of these measures within five years after they come into force.

I hope this will provide Parliamentarians with the opportunity to scrutinise the implementation of these significant reforms.

Once again, sincere apologies for the delay in responding to the helpful comments you provided during the January debate. If you have any further questions, please do get in touch. My officials and I stand ready to provide answers to any questions you may have.

I will place a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leong', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**LORD LEONG CBE**