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# Starting a UK Limited Company in 2027: What Has Changed for New Entrepreneurs?

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Anyone planning to start a UK company in 2027 will find that the biggest rule changes have already happened. The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 reshaped **UK limited company formation** between 2024 and early 2026. The next wave, covering how annual accounts are filed, has been pushed back to April 2028. As of November 2026, GOV.UK has announced no further formation-stage changes for 2027. The practical task for new founders is to understand the rules already in force and budget for the compliance that comes with them.

## Why 2027 starts from a different baseline

The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act received Royal Assent in October 2023. It gave Companies House wider powers to query and challenge information on the register, and the registrar has called those powers the most significant change in its 180-year history. The first measures took effect on 4 March 2024. They covered an “appropriate” registered office address, a registered email address and a lawful purpose statement. Identity verification followed in November 2025.

## Identity verification is now part of setup

Since 18 November 2025, identity verification has been a legal requirement for company directors and people with significant control (PSCs). New directors must verify before they can incorporate a company or be appointed to one. So it is now the first practical step for anyone who wants to set up a private limited company UK rules allow.

You can verify for free through GOV.UK One Login, or through an Authorised Corporate Service Provider such as an accountant or solicitor, who may charge a fee. Existing directors and PSCs had a 12-month transition period that ends in mid-November 2026. New entrepreneurs in 2027 will therefore meet a system that is fully in force.

## A real UK address and a registered email

Every company must keep an appropriate registered office address at all times. That means a genuine UK address where documents sent to the company would be expected to come to the attention of someone acting for it. A PO box does not qualify.

If Companies House finds an address inappropriate, it can replace it with a default address. The

company then has 28 days to provide a proper address with evidence of its link to it, or the registrar may begin striking the company off the register.

Companies must also give Companies House a registered email address. It does not appear on the public register, and keeping it appropriate is a legal duty. Founders who want to keep a home address off public record need a compliant alternative in place before they **start a UK company**.

## What it costs to register in 2027

From 1 February 2026, the digital incorporation fee at Companies House is £100, up from £50 under the previous schedule. The online confirmation statement, due once a year, is £50. Companies House reviews its fees every year, so it is sensible to allow for further movement.

For cheap company formation, the £100 government fee is the floor. The realistic ways to keep the total down are to file online, verify your identity through the free One Login route and avoid paying for extras you do not need. If you compare prices, check whether a quoted figure includes the government fee.

## Accounts filing: changes moved to April 2028

Accounts changes were originally planned for April 2027, but they will not arrive then. GOV.UK now states that software-only filing in iXBRL format will apply to accounts filed on or after 1 April 2028. The government has also paused the plan to require small and micro companies to file profit and loss accounts. Small companies and micro-entities can still file abridged or filleted accounts without profit and loss data.

If your company is incorporated in 2027, your first accounts will not fall under the new software-only rules. It is still worth choosing accounting software that can file in the required format.

## A practical approach to starting in 2027

For most founders the sequence is simple. Verify your identity, choose a compliant registered office address and email, and file your incorporation application online. Then diarise your confirmation statement and account deadlines. Whether you file directly on GOV.UK or ask a business like BusinAssist to handle the paperwork, the legal duties stay with you as director. Check GOV.UK before you file, because fees and dates can change.

### Frequently asked questions

*Are there new rules for starting a UK limited company in 2027?*
As of November 2026, GOV.UK has announced no new formation-stage rules specifically for 2027. The main changes are already in force: identity verification, appropriate address rules and the registered email requirement. The account changes are now planned for April 2028.

*How much does UK limited company formation cost?*
Online incorporation with Companies House costs £100. The annual confirmation statement is £50. Accounting, tax and any address service are separate costs.

*Do I need to verify my identity before I register a company?*
Yes. New directors must verify before they can incorporate a company or be appointed to one.

Verification is free through GOV.UK One Login.

*Can I use a PO box as my registered office?*
No. The registered office must be an appropriate UK address that can receive and record documents for the company.

*Is a "cheap" company formation safe?*
It can be, provided it meets the legal requirements. Check that the address is appropriate, that identity verification is handled, and that the quoted price covers the Companies House fee.

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